FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

Near East & South Asia

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MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 July Middle East and South Asia Review ..... AA 1

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Egyptian Minister, King Husayn Meet in London *[Cairo]* ..... BB 1
'Abd al-Majid on Conference *[MENA]* ..... BB 1
Reiterates Support For Kuwait *[KUNA]* ..... BB 1

PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS

Syria-PLO Talks Reportedly Held in Cyprus, Algeria *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* ..... DD 1
Fatah Official Denies 'Minutes' *[Voice of PLO]* ..... DD 1
'Arafat Arrives in Tunis After Algeria Visit *[Sanaa VOP]* ..... DD 1
PLO's 'Arafat Arrives for Talks in Bangladesh *[Sanaa VOP]* ..... DD 1
Ershad Welcomes 'Arafat *[Dhaka]* ..... DD 1
'Arafat, Ershad Banquet Speeches *[Dhaka]* ..... DD 2
'Arafat Urges Islamic Summit *[Dhaka]* ..... DD 2
Addresses Symposium *[Sanaa VOP]* ..... DD 3
'Arafat Arrives in Kuwait to Assess 'Situation' *[KUNA]* ..... DD 4
Meets Amir, Prime Minister *[KUNA]* ..... DD 4
Vows Support for Kuwait *[KUNA]* ..... DD 4

EGYPT

Mubarak Returns to Cairo, Makes Statement ..... C 1
Receives Message From Chirac ..... C 1
Iranian-Backed 'Terrorist' Group 'Uncovered' *[Beirut AL-SAFIR 11 Jul]* ..... C 1
AL-ANBA' Publishes Names *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 11 Jul]* ..... C 2
Security Arrests Engineer With 'Spying Device' ..... C 2
Al-Mahjub Meets With Sudanese Party Official ..... C 2
Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General Arrives ..... C 2
Parliamentary Delegation Leaves for India ..... C 3
Planning Minister Returns From Greece 12 Jul ..... C 3
Oil Official Says 12 New Productive Wells Dug ..... C 3

LIBYA

Any Move Toward Aozou 'Declaration of War' ..... D 1
Algerian Official, Delegation Arrive 11 Jul ..... D 1
Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Messaadia ..... D 1
Nicaraguan Vice President, Delegation on Visit ..... D 1
Received by Al-Qadhdhafi ..... D 1
DFLP's Hawatimah Arrives in Tripoli 12 Jul ..... D 1

SUDAN

Military Source Cited on Recent Kidnappings *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 11 Jul]* ..... G 1
Prime Minister Returns; Views Arab Tour ..... G 1
Al-Sayyid Hamad Named to State Council Post ..... G 1
Paper Claims SPLM Soldiers Trained in Cuba ..... G 1
Reports Termed 'Exaggeration' ..... G 1

ARABIAN PENINSULA

INTER-GULF

French Defense Minister on Attacked French Ship *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* ..... J 1

KUWAIT

Spokesman Denies IRNA Report on Executions ..... J 1
Envoy Discusses Current Gulf Shipping Problems *[London AL-MAJALLAH 8-14 Jul]* ..... J 1
UK Ready To Consider Reflagging of Tankers ..... J 2
Kuwaiti Hizballah Threaten U.S. Interests *[Tehran]* ..... J 2
Arab League's Klibi Visits, Praises Diplomacy ..... J 2

PDRY

Party Officials Address 'Misled' Returnees ..... J 3
First Round of Official PDRY-Somali Talks Begin ..... J 3
Foreign Ministers Confer ..... J 3
Nu'man Meets Somalia's Barre ..... J 3

SAUDI ARABIA

Ethiopian Foreign Minister Continues Visit ..... J 4
Meets Defense Minister ..... J 4
Talks With Foreign Minister ..... J 4
Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Mahdi Continues Visit ..... J 4
Meets With King Fahd ..... J 4
Holds News Conference ..... J 4
Holds Airport Meeting, Departs ..... J 5

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives, Makes Statement *[WAKH]* ..... J 5

YAR

Ethiopia Foreign Minister Meets Salih *[Addis Ababa]* ..... J 5

IRAQ

Battlefront Reports From Gulf Conflict Continue ..... K 1
'Terrorist Operations' Denied ..... K 1
Communique No 2,737 Issued ..... K 1
Communique No 2,738 Issued ..... K 1
Communique No 2,739 Issued ..... K 2
Residential Bombing Denied ..... K 2
Communique No 2,740 Issued ..... K 2
Communique No 2,741 Issued ..... K 3

ISRAEL

Soviet Consular Delegation Arrives in Tel Aviv ..... L 1
Makeup, Agenda of Delegation ..... L 1
Soviets Begin Contacts ..... L 1
Peres Expects Negotiations With USSR in Aug ..... L 1
Senior Sources Note 'Clear Hardening' in USSR Stand *[THE JERUSALEM POST 13 Jul]* ..... L 2
Shamir Discusses Amnesty Vote, Peres-Mubarak Talks ..... L 2
AL-QABAS Reveals 'Secret' Peres Peace Initiative *[11 Jul]* ..... L 3
Shamir, Sharon Face-off in Herut Meeting *[THE JERUSALEM POST 13 Jul]* ..... L 4

Sharon Urges Peres' Dismissal ..... L 4
Shamir 'Attacks' Peres Proposals *[THE JERUSALEM POST 13 Jul]* ..... L 5
Peres Reacts to Shamir Remarks ..... L 5
Peres Working for Better Ties With SFRY, Hungary *[HADASHOT 12 Jul]* ..... L 6
Chinese Scientists Pay 'Clandestine' Visit *[DAVAR 12 Jul]* ..... L 7
Pope To Invite Ambassador To 'Allay Tension' *[HA'ARETZ 12 Jul]* ..... L 7
General Strike Ends; Further Action Possible *[THE JERUSALEM POST 13 Jul]* ..... L 7
Rabin, Nisim To Submit Plan to 'Scrap' Lavi ..... L 7
Labor Leaders Urging Withdrawal From Government *[MA'ARIV 12 Jul]* ..... L 8
Shinuy Joins No-Confidence Motion on Shamir Vote ..... L 8
Two Islamic Jihad Members Given Life Sentences ..... L 8

JORDAN

King, Queen Leave for UK on 'Private Visit' ..... M 1
Prime Minister Departs for UK ..... M 1
Minister Denies Reports on Syria-Iraq Summit *[Monte Carlo]* ..... M 1
Arab League's Secretary General Arrives 11 Jul ..... M 1

LEBANON

AL-SHIRA' Claims Micro-Transmitter Found on Waite *[AFP]* ..... N 1
Junblatt's Aides Reportedly Sold Waite to Hizballah *[VOL]* ..... N 1
Organization Claims Holding Waite, Glass *[AFP]* ..... N 1
Ransom Demand Made for Kidnapped West Germans *[Hamburg DPA]* ..... N 1
KUNA Says All Hostages Held in South Beirut 'Jail' *[KUNA]* ..... N 2
Syria, Iran Reportedly To Discuss French Hostages *[Cairo]* ..... N 2
Syria Will Not Use Force to Free Foreign Hostages *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 10 Jul]* ..... N 2
Syrians Give U.S. Videotape of Sabri al-Banna *[VOL]* ..... N 2
Al-Jumayyil Statement on Karami Assassination *[VOL]* ..... N 2
Leaders Speak on 40-Day Memorial for Karami ..... N 3
Syria's Al-Ahmar Renews Pledge ..... N 3
Birri Outlines Proposals ..... N 3
Junblatt Addresses Ceremony ..... N 4
Al-Jumayyil, Sham'un Discuss Domestic Situation *[VOL]* ..... N 5
Al-Huss Responds to Sham'un ..... N 5
Fadlallah: 'Economic Crisis' 'War' Against Muslims *[IRNA]* ..... N 5
Outlines Stance on Kidnappings *[London AL-HAWADITH 10 Jul]* ..... N 6
Hizballah: 'Israeli Agents' Seek Camps War Renewal *[AFP]* ..... N 7
PFLP-GC South Security Chief Escapes Assassination *[RFL]* ..... N 7
Amal Military Official Assassinated in Suburb *[VOL]* ..... N 7
Two More Amal Officials Killed *[RFL]* ..... N 7
2 Syrians Killed in Ba'labakk; Search Carried Out *[VOL]* ..... N 7
Amal Issues Statement on Ambush in South *[VONR]* ..... N 8
Army Command Dismisses 5th Brigade Commander *[VONR]* ..... N 8
Weapons Reaching Palestinian Camp Via PSP Trucks *[RFL]* ..... N 8

AFGHANISTAN

Protest Lodged With UK Over Arms Supply to Rebels ..... P 1
Draft Constitution Approved; Referendum Submitted ..... P 1
2 Armed Groups Join Reconciliation Process ..... P 1
'Extremist' Leader Killed in Clash in Iran ..... P 2
Security Forces Recover Large Arms Caches ..... P 2
Karachi Reports Mujahidin Down 2 Soviet Planes ..... P 2
Mujahidin Kill, Wound 400 in Nangarhar Province *[Karachi]* ..... P 2

BANGLADESH

Dhaka 'Paralyzed' by 24-Hour General Strike *[AFP]* ..... Q 1
Parliamentary Walkout Reported *[AFP]* ..... Q 1

Opposition Protests Council Bill ..... Q 1
Minister on Opposition Move ..... Q 1

INDIA

Presidential Polling Begins; Results Due 16 Jul ..... R 1
Senior Minister Says Sikhs Using Chinese Weapons *[AFP]* ..... R 1
Gandhi Assures States of Aid Against Terrorism ..... R 1
Barnala Supports Party Campaign Against Terrorism ..... R 1
State Officials Meet, Discuss Antiterrorist Plans ..... R 1
Strikes Held To Protest Punjab, Haryana Killings ..... R 2
Prohibitory Orders Extended in Delhi to 19 Jul ..... R 2
'Tense' Situation Prevails in Parts of Meghalaya ..... R 2
Naga Rebels Attack Military Camp, Capture Arms ..... R 2
Gandhi Questioned About Domestic, Foreign Issues *[Paris L'HUMANITE 2 Jul]* ..... R 2

IRAN

JANA Reports 'Suicide' Exercises in Gulf Planned ..... S 1
Kuwait Reportedly Executes Islamic Jihad Members ..... S 1
French Charge Summoned Over Beating of Diplomat ..... S 1
Khomeyni Meets With Hajj Organizer 13 Jul ..... S 1
Khomeyni Issues Order Appointing Friday Imam ..... S 2
Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives on 1-Day Visit ..... S 2
Met by Velayati ..... S 2
Pledges To Back Iran ..... S 2
Meets With Musavi *[Damascus]* ..... S 2
Meeting With Musavi Detailed ..... S 2
Velayati Interviewed on Ties ..... S 3
Khamene'i Warns Against 'Superpower Adventures' ..... S 3
Khamene'i Briefed by IRGC Official on Operations ..... S 3
IRNA Notes 'Anomalies' in Reflagging Plan ..... S 3
Tehran Assails 'Shortsightedness' of U.S. Policy ..... S 4
Cabinet, Officials Review Latest Moves in Gulf ..... S 5
Musavi Denies Iraqi Gains ..... S 5
Musavi on Ties With France, Soviet Plane Incident ..... S 5
Montazeri Addresses Iraqi Kurds Living in Iran ..... S 5
Khamene'i Receives Iraqi Kurdish Muslims ..... S 6
Mohtashemi, Iraqi Clergy Meet ..... S 6
Islamic Guidance Minister on Hajj Pilgrims ..... S 6
Recent Operations in War With Iraq Detailed ..... S 6
Communique No 2,893 ..... S 6
PUK Forces Kill Iraqi Troops ..... S 7
Communique No 2,894 ..... S 7
Iraqi Attack 'Neutralized' ..... S 7
Iraqi Bombing Kills Civilians ..... S 7
More Gulf Defenders Depart ..... S 8
Communique No 2,895 ..... S 8
IRGC Repels Iraqi Gunboat Attack ..... S 8
Monafeqin-e Khalq Bases in Pakistan Destroyed ..... S 8

PAKISTAN

Afghan Rebel Leader Escapes Bomb Attack *[AFP]* ..... V 1
Prime Minister Junejo Leaves for Visit to Japan ..... V 1

SRI LANKA

Limit Placed on Number of Indian Relief Ships ..... W 1
President Rejects Call for UN-Supervised Vote ..... W 1
Premadasa Travels to UK, Japan for Conferences ..... W 1

20 'Terrorists,' 7 Soldiers Killed in Fighting ..... W 1

13 July Middle East and South Asia Review

LD131305 [Editorial Report]

Israel

A six-member Soviet consular delegation arrived in Tel Aviv 12 July, Jerusalem Radio revealed, adding that the delegation is "under the patronage" of the Finnish Embassy.

Egypt

In remarks cited by MENA 11 July, President Husni Mubarak declared that Egypt does not "impose formulas" on anyone, but he urged the PLO to "look for a way" to participate in an international conference on the Mideast. It is Egypt's "clear position" that the Palestinians themselves must choose their representatives to an international conference, Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid explained in remarks to *Al-Ahram* reported by MENA 12 July. The minister also noted that Jordanian King Husayn gave his a reply to the Mubarak message which 'Abd al-Majid delivered to the king in London.

According to MENA, Avraham Tamir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, arrived in Cairo 13 July to prepare for the Egyptian foreign minister's visit to Israel.

Iran-Iraq War

The French container ship *Ville d'Anvers* was attacked by an unidentified gunboat as it sailed from Kuwait to Bahrain 13 July, French Defense Minister Andre Giraud told Radio Monte Carlo. In remarks reported by Paris radio, the ship's captain said "there is no mystery" regarding the nationality of the boat which attacked his ship "without a warning or an appeal."

In separate raids 13 July, Iraqi warplanes hit a large maritime target near the Iranian coast and struck "devastating blows" against Iranian oil installations on Farsi Island, according to a communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio. The communique noted that all aircraft returned safely to base; however, Tehran radio reported that Iranian Navy air defense units shot down an Iraqi warplane over "southern waters."

Regarding other action in the Gulf, Iraq's VI Army Corps recaptured "several kilometers" of Iraqi territory in a "sweeping attack" on Iranian positions in the southern Majnun oil field the morning of 11 July, the Iraqi command announced in a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. The Iraqis reportedly killed "hundreds" of Iranians and captured "scores." The Iraqi Air Force supported the VI Corps with air strikes on Iranian artillery emplacements and a Hawk missile battery, according to another communique carried by the radio.

However, Tehran radio stated that Iraq's "desperate" attempt to penetrate Majnun Island was "neutralized," adding that the Iraqis were forced to retreat and sustained "hundreds" of casualties.

In another development the same day, IRNA announced that Iraqi air raids on towns in West Azarbayjan caused civilian casualties. The claim was denied by an Iraqi spokesman, who told INA that Iraqi raids that day were against military targets.

Iran

Relations With Syria — Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' "renewed Syria's pledge to back Iran in the Iraqi-imposed war," IRNA stated in a report on Al-Shar's talks with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in Tehran 12 July. The Syrian visitor reportedly said his country's stance on the war has not changed and affirmed that Syria favors strengthening its "strategic" ties with Iran. For Iran's part, Velayati described relations with Syria as "important," and accused the United States of conspiring to sow discord between the two countries. A Damascus radio report on the talks noted that Al-Shar' was carrying a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to President 'Ali Khamene'i on the latest regional developments and issues of common interest.

Beirut's *Al-Shira'* indicated that the release of French hostages in Lebanon would be one topic of the Syrian-Iranian talks, according to Cairo radio. The Lebanese weekly said that Al-Asad instructed Al-Shar' to raise the issue with the Iranians following a request from France.

Protest to France — The Foreign Ministry summoned the French charge to protest the "barbaric and inhumane" attack during which an Iranian diplomat en route to Paris was beaten unconscious by policemen in the French section of Geneva airport, Tehran radio reported 12 July. According to Paris radio, the diplomat only received "slight injuries" when customs officers tried to "overrule" his "tantrums" against being searched.

Gulf Defenders — Three battalions of "Persian Gulf defenders" left Bandar-e 'Abbas 11 July for posts in "strategic" islands in the Gulf, IRNA noted. A JANA report the same day cited an announcement in Tehran that Iran will begin exercises in the Gulf region for "suicide" missions.

Pakistan Attacks — Reporting on the recent attacks on Mojahedin-e Khalq personnel in Quetta and Karachi, IRNA said that "an unidentified group" had destroyed all bases of the "monafeqin" (hypocrites) in these cities, inflicting around 100 casualties. The agency said the bases had been used for launching "terrorist" attacks against Iran.

Khomeyni Appearance — In a 13 July meeting with hajj officials, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni hoped that the Saudi Government will create no difficulties "for themselves and us" and expressed his desire for "greater understanding" among Iranian pilgrims, the Saudi people, and other pilgrims, Tehran radio reported.

Kuwait

Hizballah Threat — The Kuwaiti branch of Hizballah announced that organization's intention to deal "horrific blows" to U.S. interests and "strategic positions," according to a statement cited by IRNA 11 July. The statement condemned the plan to have Kuwaiti tankers sail under the U.S. flag and termed it a "plot" to damage the Islamic revolution.

Executions Denied — An Interior Ministry spokesman told KUNA 11 July that there is "absolutely no truth" to the rumors that three fundamentalist Muslims sentenced to death for their part in terrorist activities were recently executed.

'Arafat Support — Following 12 July meetings with Amir Jabir Al Sabah and other officials, Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, announced PLO solidarity with Kuwait and called for a 1-day Islamic summit to discuss "dangerous developments" in the Iran-Iraq war, KUNA reported.

Lebanon

In a statement delivered to a Western correspondent in Riyaq 12 July, the "Organization of Right Against Falsehood" claimed to have custody of Anglican envoy Terry Waite, U.S. journalist Charles Glass, and a third unidentified hostage, AFP reported. The agency also cited an *Al-Shira'* report that Waite was abducted after a body search uncovered a microtransmitter concealed in his hair.

Regarding the hostages' whereabouts, Voice of Lebanon radio reported 13 July that Syrian sources "leaked" information that associates of Walid Junblatt "sold" Terry Waite to Hizballah for 200,000 dollars. The radio also noted that Syrian forces arrested five Junblatt supporters for "collaborating with the Israeli enemy." However, according to a report in the magazine *Al-Kifah al-'Arabi* cited by KUNA 11 July, a "senior political source" has declared that one organization is holding all foreign hostages in a South Beirut "jail."

AFP cited a report in the Beirut newspaper *Al-Nahar* 13 July that the kidnappers of two West German businessmen have demanded a ransom of 16.5 million dollars.

Libya

Criticism of Walters Mission — Without directly mentioning Vernon Walters' talks in Syria, a Tripoli radio commentary denounced the "suspect mission" carried out by "this rancorous American," who recently "led a nasty and hostile campaign against some who are the objects of his current visit." The radio urged all Arabs to impose a total boycott of the U.S. Administration and its envoys, whatever the cost.

Warning to Ndjamena — A Foreign Liaison Bureau statement carried by JANA 12 July stressed that Aozou is an "integral part" of Libyan territory and warned that "military action against Aozou" will be considered a "declaration of war." The statement came in response to Chadian President Hissein Habre's charge that Libya is concentrating troops in northern Chad.

Nicaraguan Visitor — Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez was received by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi 12 July, JANA reported. According to the agency, the Nicaraguan delegation's visit is aimed at consolidating bilateral relations and developing cooperation.

Algeria

Death Sentences — The security trial in Medea ended 10 July with three of the accused being sentenced to death, Algiers radio reported. The state security court sentenced 4 persons to life imprisonment and 184 others to varying prison terms. It also passed 4 suspended sentences and acquitted 13 people.

Diplomacy — Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi met with Moroccan King Hassan II in Casablanca 11 July, Rabat radio noted. Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received FLN official Mohamed Cherif Messaadia in Tripoli the same day, according to JANA, which said the Algerian envoy gave Al-Qadhdhafi a message from President Chadli Bendjedid concerning current Libyan-Algerian "unionist steps."

Afghanistan

Protest to UK — The Foreign Ministry protested Britain's involvement in the supply of weapons, especially Blowpipe missiles, to "armed extremists," according to a statement carried by *Bakhtar* 12 July. The ministry also called on the British Government to end its "undeniable interference" in the internal affairs of the DRA.

Constitutional Referendum — The Revolutionary Council Presidium approved the draft constitution and ordered that it be disseminated to the public and then submitted for "general referendum," according to a resolution broadcast by Kabul radio.

Egyptian Minister, King Husayn Meet in London
NC111535 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan as soon as he arrived in London today. He conveyed a message to the king from President Husni Mubarak. 'Abd al-Majid briefed King Husayn on the outcome of the Geneva talks held by President Husni Mubarak and various officials with regard to the holding of an international conference for a just and comprehensive Middle East peace settlement. The meeting between 'Abd al-Majid and King Husayn is part of continuing talks and coordination between Egypt and Jordan to prepare for and enhance the chances of convening this international conference.

'Abd al-Majid on Conference
NC120616 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, declared that there is complete agreement between President Husni Mubarak and Jordan's King Husayn on an international Middle East peace conference and on the need to convene this conference during 1987.

He stated that in reply to President Mubarak's message, the king had given him a letter for the president in which he discussed the same subjects covered by Mubarak in his message to the Jordanian monarch. These include the international peace conference, the role of the United Nations and its secretary general in this matter, Palestinian representation, and the difficulties facing the conference.

In a statement to be published in Monday's edition of *Al-Ahram*, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that he will give King Husayn's message to President Mubarak as soon as he returns to Cairo from his visit to Austria.

The deputy prime minister noted that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will depart for Washington, D.C. in the next few days to meet with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and senior U.S. officials. He said that this visit will give new momentum to the Middle East peace process, in addition to the British Government's explicit stands.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid told *Al-Ahram* that Egypt occupies a unique position since it can conduct a dialogue with all the parties concerned. He noted that this dialogue will in the end serve the interests of this Middle Eastern issue and those of peace, as well as ensuring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. He declared that Egypt is eager to hold consultations with all parties, including Israel, because it plays a principal role in any peace process.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid added that there must be agreement on the steps to be taken toward peace and that this will benefit Israel and all other regional states. He noted that the Palestinians are very anxious that the international conference be held. He stated: We agree with the Palestinian brothers. It is Egypt's clear position that the PLO must choose the Palestinian participants to the conference and that the Palestinian brothers must determine who is to represent them and speak on their behalf.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid noted that meetings were recently held in Cairo with Hani al-Hasan, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. He said that there are constant consultations betweenEgypt, Jordan, and the Palestinians on political moves regarding the international conference and principles for peace.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid explained that his visit to Austria was in response to an invitation from the Austrian foreign minister. He declared that this visit will provide an opportunity to brief Austrian officials on Egypt's views with regard to international issues, particularly security and peace in Europe and the Mediterranean, as well as on the results of President Mubarak's meetings in Geneva.

Reiterates Support For Kuwait
LD122039 Kuwait KUNA in English 1849 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] London, July 12 (KUNA) — Egypt's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid Sunday [12 July] pledged that his country would back Kuwait 'with all force' in the face of threats made against it.

In an exclusive interview with KUNA, the official commended Kuwait's recent diplomatic drive and described it as 'effective, clever and wise'.

Al-Majid, speaking to KUNA during his short visit to the British capital, said the Cairo government supports the sisterly people of Kuwait and in the Gulf region, pledging that his country 'will do its utmost and offer its available capabilities to help Kuwait'.

He, in the meantime, stressed that 'the thrust of our endeavour remains to focus on reinstatement of peace and halting the war through effecting a ceasefire between Iraq and Iran and the start of negotiations to settle the dispute.'

Reiterating the principle of freedom of navigation in the Gulf as an established international rule, approved by all states, headed by the two superpowers, Al-Majid praised the U.S. decision to reflag some Kuwaiti oil tankers as a 'sound' step.

He echoed earlier assertions made by President Husni Mubarak to the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad that 'Kuwait's security is part of that of Egypt'.

Referring to the draft resolution to be submitted to the U.N. Security Council in respect of the Gulf war, the official indicated that it may be tabled on Tuesday or Wednesday and pointed out that approval of the draft by the five permanent member-states would represent a positive step to be taken for the first time.

He spoke of consultations under way in the U.N. [word indistinct] lobbies among neutral members of the Security Council [words indistinct] on the [words indistinct] Al-Majid explained, not only the great powers but the Non-Aligned Movement as well want to demonstrate support of the resolution.

The official stated that the draft has been discussed by President Mubarak and U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar during their recent meeting in Geneva and expressed Egypt's support of a Security Council session held at foreign ministers' level to consider the draft.

On the prospects of convening an international Mideast peace conference, Al-Majid (?spoke) of 'positive indications' following Mubarak's talks in Geneva and underlined importance of the time factor. 'On advent of 1988,' he reminded, 'elections in the U.S. and Israel are due and hence peace (?efforts may stop.)'

Though admitting that unresolved issues still stood in the way on the conference's prerogratives and the role of the five permanent members, particularly the two superpowers, Al-Majid sensed 'flexibility and readiness by the parties to reach concord'.

The official renewed Egypt's assertions that Palestinian representatives should be chosen by the Palestine Liberation Organisation and underlined the necersity of the Soviet Union's participation, describing Moscow's role as 'leading'.

Al-Majid who left in the evening for Vienna on an official visit to Austria, refused to (?divulge) on details of his meeting here with King Husayn of Jordan nor divulge contents of the important reply message and information, he said he will be carrying back to President Mubarak from the Jordanian monarch.

Syria-PLO Talks Reportedly Held in Cyprus, Algeria

JN111022 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1000 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources have stated to AFP that a secret meeting took place in Limassol, Cyprus, on 11 June between representatives of Syria and the PLO. These sources said that the two sides had discussed the situation of the Palestinians in Lebanon, but the talks did not yield any results. However, it was agreed to hold further meetings in the future.

Other Palestinian sources reported that a meeting was held in Algiers on 22 June between Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Khalil al-Wazir, 'Arafat's military assistant, as part of the efforts being made to reconcile Syria and the PLO leaders.

Fatah Official Denies 'Minutes'

JN111941 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1828 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Brother Abu Al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid], Fatah Central Committee member, has denied the reports in certain Gulf newspapers on what has been described as the minutes of a Syrian-Palestinian meeting. He said: I categorically deny the so-called minutes. I do not know what objectives are behind publishing such minutes. Brother Abu al-Hawl stressed the need to continue positive efforts to improve Palestinian-Syrian relations in accordance with the PNC resolutions to help achieve an effective Arab solidarity to confront the imperialist-Zionist challenges.

'Arafat Arrives in Tunis After Algeria Visit

JN091758 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, has arrived in Tunis from Algiers after heading a high-level Palestinian delegation to Algeria's national celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of independence.

Brother Abu 'Ammar and his accompanying delegation were accorded great attention and hospitality by his brother President Chadli Bendjedid and senior party and government officials, expressing the great genuineness of the militant and fateful relations binding the two revolutions and peoples of Palestine and Algeria. Brother Abu 'Ammar met with Algerian Prime Minister Brother Abdelhamid Brahimi and Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, the official in charge of the FLN Central Committee's Permanent Secretariat, and held talks with them on the fateful causes of our Arab nation. On the sidelines of these celebrations, Brother Abu 'Ammar also met with many heads of Arab and friendly foreign delegations who participated in the celebration.

Brother Abu 'Ammar was accompanied during his visit to Algiers by Brothers Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh and Sulayman al-Najjab, PLO Executive Committee Members; Abu al-Hawl [Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid], Fatah Central Committee member; and Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman and Abu al-Tayyib, Fatah Revolutionary Council members.

PLO's 'Arafat Arrives for Talks in Bangladesh

JN101724 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, arrived in Dhaka today on a visit to Bangladesh. During his stay, he will hold talks with Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad on the latest developments in the Middle East situation, particularly the Palestinian cause and PLO-Bangladesh relations.

Ershad Welcomes 'Arafat

BK101652 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Excerpts] The chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, was given a warm welcome when he arrived in Dhaka this afternoon on a 2-day state visit to Bangladesh. As he alighted from the special aircraft of the Kuwait Airways, a 21-gun salute boomed in the air to herald the arrival of the PLO leader. Four BAF [Bangladesh Air Force] jets escorted the PLO leader's aircraft as it entered Bangladesh airspace. President Ershad received Mr Yasir 'Arafat at the airport. [passage omitted]

Shortly after arrival, Mr 'Arafat attended a seminar on the role of the International Court of Justice in maintaining world peace. Organizers of the seminar, the Bangladesh Society for the Rule of Law, presented the world justice [word indistinct] award to Mr 'Arafat in recognition of his struggle for establishing the rights of the Palestinian people. President Ershad conferred the award to the PLO chairman amid thunderous applause of the audience. vice President Justice A.K.M. Nurul Islam, read out the citation of the award. Two other recipients of the award are, posthumously former Swedish prime minister, Olof Palme, and former Chief Justice, Syed Mahbub Murshed.

Speaking on the occasion, Yasir 'Arafat reiterated his call for convening an international conference on the Middle East crisis. He said such a conference must be attended by all parties concerned including the PLO on equal footing.

President, Ershad, in his speech, said the International Court of Justice can play a vital role in solving conflicts threatening world peace and destablizing international situation. If we fail to see the dangerous line behind conflicts, in this nuclear age the world will be exposed to nuclear holocaust that will totally destroy the present human civilization. President Ershad noted with regret that the problem of Palestine, Israel's occupation of Arab land including the Al-Quds al-Sharif [Jerusalem], its policy of expansion and emigration, Lebanon, the apartheid policy in southern Africa and its occupation of Namibia have defied solutions by the United Nations. It is not only for the sake of justice but also in the interest of world peace and security that Israel must be

compelled to withdraw from all Palestinian and Arab territories including the holy city of Jerusalem.

The president lauded the efforts of the PLO in the just struggle for a state of their own under the chairmanship of Mr Yasir 'Arafat. The president, in this connection, reiterated Bangladesh's total commitment to promote peace both regionally and internationally. As a member of the United nations, the Non-aligned Movement, the ICO and the Commonwealth, it has been making constant endeavors for peace. It is with this objective Bangladesh took the initiative in establishing SAARC for regional cooperation and economic well-being of 1 billion people of the region.

'Arafat, Ershad Banquet Speeches

BK110404 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] President Ershad has reiterated Bangladesh's total support to the heroic people of Palestine in their just and legitimate struggle for a state of their own. He was speaking at a banquet given by him in honor of the PLO chairman, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, at Banga Bhava in Dhaka last night. He said the tragic sufferings of the Palestinian brethren in the continuous Judaization of Jerusalem and other occupied territory by Israel are hurting the hearts of all Muslims. A just and lasting peace in the region can be achieved only on the basis of a complete and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from occupied lands and the restoration of the rights of the Palestinians under the sole and legitimate representative, the PLO. Bangladesh also endorses the proposal for an international conference on the Middle East and supports the UN secretary general's efforts in this aspect. This conference, it is expected, will have the participation of PLO on an equal footing with other parties directly concerned.

Referring to the Gulf war, the president described it as deep wound in the Islamic ummah [community] and said that there is a colossal loss of life and resources (?because of) the war. All countries should continue their efforts individually and collectively to bring an early end to the Iran-Iraq war. In this connection, President Ershad spoke about the Islam's message of peace, unity and universal brotherhood of mankind. The Islamic world today is torn by conflict because they have deviated from the teachings of Islam. It is true there are forces at work to divide the Muslim world and the president said the Islamic countries must resist these forces. We must never succumb to them.

About the world's economic situation, the president said there is growing frustration over the existing disparity between the developed and the developing nations. He called for a new international economic order to ensure world peace, stability and harmony.

Speaking on the occasion, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat called for united efforts by the Islamic world to resolve problems facing the Muslim ummah [word indistinct] with the crisis in the Gulf and the Palestinian question. Mr 'Arafat apprehended that the Iran-Iraq fratricidal war is taking a new dimension with the escalation of the conflict and involvement of many parties. He said President Ershad's relentless efforts for the cause of the Islamic ummah will continue to bring an end to the Gulf war. [sentence as heard] The PLO chief lauded the role being played by the president of Bangladesh in the peace initiative in the Gulf under the aegis of ICO peace committee and said peace is imperative for the sake of consolidation of the Islamic ummah.

Speaking about Bangladesh's active support toward cause of the Palestinians he said the relations are based on common destiny, brotherhood, common civilization, teachings and principles. The PLO chairman expressed his gratitude to President Ershad and the people of Bangladesh for brotherly position taken by them for the Palestinians on Palestinian question, including participation of Bangladesh mujahidin [holy warriors] in Palestinian war and their heroic performance. Mr 'Arafat said the jihad [holy war] will continue till victory to secure the just and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to have a homeland of their own in their own territory. He reiterated that the Palestinian people are not fighting for fighting's sake but to secure justice and permanent peace in the area. In this context he again called for holding of an international conference on the Middle East crisis with the participation of all parties concerned including the PLO on an equal footing.

The PLO chairman, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, met with President Ershad at Banga Bhavan yesterday evening. He expressed the admiration and greatfulness of the Palestinian people for the consistent support of Bangladesh to their cause. The PLO leader said he has brought with him the love and goodwill of the Palestinian people for the people of Bangladesh.

President Ershad expressed his happiness for being able to welcome Yasir 'Arafat once again to Bangladesh. Foreign minister, Humayun Rashid Chowdhury and the foreign secretary, the PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani and PLO representative in Bangladesh (Safdar Zarin) were present.

The visiting PLO chief, Mr 'Arafat goes to Sawar this morning to place wreath at the (Jatiya Shahid Smiriti Saudha) [National Martyrs Memorial]. He will also sign the visitor's book and plant a sapling.

'Arafat Urges Islamic Summit

BK111415 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has described his talks with President Ershad as very constructive and positive. He was speaking to a news conference in Dhaka on Saturday [11 July]. Mr 'Arafat arrived in Dhaka on Friday on a 2-day visit to Bangladesh. Mr 'Arafat expressed his gratitude to the government and the people of Bangladesh for their continued support to the people of Palestine against the Israeli aggression.

He said he is very proud to have Bangladeshi mujahidin fighting along with the Palestinians in the battlefields to recover the occupied Arab land, including the Al-Quds al-Sharif [Jerusalem]. This heroic struggle along with the Bangladesh mujahidin will continue till the Palestinians recover their homeland including Jerusalem. The people of Palestine can never forget the support they are getting from Bangladesh.

The PLO chairman said no peace and stability can be achieved in the region without recognizing the just and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to have a homeland of their own. The struggle against Israeli aggression and expansionism will continue till the PLO achieves its objectives.

In reply to a question, Mr 'Arafat said that the proposal for an international conference on the Middle East and ways to end the Gulf war were discussed with President Ershad. In this conference, the PLO must have full participation with other parties concerned on an equal footing. On the Gulf war he said it is against Iraq, it is against Iran, and it is against the whole Islamic ummah [community]. He made an impassioned appeal to Iran and Iraq to stop the war; otherwise, he cautioned, there will be a disaster in the region. There is a new (?escalation) in the Gulf because of posing of naval ships by big powers. If the war does not end immediately, the tragedy will be manifold.

The PLO chief called upon the Muslim countries to hold an urgent Islamic summit, even for a day, to discuss ways of ending the Gulf war.

In reply to another question, Mr 'Arafat said the Soviet Union, Algeria, and Tunisia are mediating to bridge the differences between Syria and the PLO on various issues involving the Middle East.

Addresses Symposium

JN1119491 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1603 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Speech by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at a symposium on the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the International Court of Justice held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 10 July — read by announcer]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted containing Koranic verses] Your Excellency Bangladesh President Mohammad Ershad; Mr Chairman, the Bangladesh vice president; members of the delegations; brothers and friends: I am pleased to address you on behalf of the Palestinian people, in the name of my brothers, the PLO Executive Committee members, and in my own name, to thank you for your kind invitation,and to express to you my heartfelt sentiments wishing this symposium success. [passage omitted]

On this important occasion, the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the International Court of Justice, which was the culmination of the United Nations and the acceptance of the UN Charter by all the states and peoples in the world following two world wars, it seems obvious that this world and this earth cannot but uphold justice. Justice cannot prevail without the supremacy of the law and without the elimination of wars, injustice, and oppression. Justice cannot prevail if we cannot eliminate the law of the jungle, the law of supremacy of power over principles, justice, and values. [passage omitted]

Brothers and friends: Our problems are great and cannot be summarized. Each one of our people has a tragedy in his life. Each one has a cause. What is more dangerous is that we are facing a state which challenges international will, a state which is the only one that was established through this will. This state insists on violating international law and rejecting all of the UN resolutions, especially those related to the Palestinian people's rights,including their right to return to self-determination and to establish their national, independent state. Israel insists on denying the existence of the Palestinian people and is trying, along with its protectors and allies, to eliminate them from existence. The judicial systems have experienced attempts by some to manipulate the law and to evade it; however, what we are facing now is one who denied the law as a whole.

Mr Chairman, respected delegates: Israel would not have challenged international law and legitimacy in such a manner without unlimited U.S. support on legal, political, diplomatic, economic, financial, military, and propaganda levels from successive U.S. administrations, especially the current Reagan Administration. This administration also challenges international law and flouts it by its denial of the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people. This is a sacred right, approved by international law and the UN Charter, on which the International Court of Justice is established. It is a natural, legitimate right for all the peoples of the world without exception. The U.S. Administration is stepping up its denial of this natural, legitimate right by hatching plots to liquidate the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and end their existence. It is challenging international will by rejecting the UN resolutions and using its veto to hamper the activities of international legitimacy.

In 1981 and 1982, we reached written agreements with this administration's representative Philip Habib, but this administration dissociated itself from those agreements and began to ignore the PLO, which had signed agreements with it. Today, the United States ignores our Palestinian people's existence and legitimate rights, which were approved by international legitimacy and resolutions. By adopting this serious policy, which is opposed to the UN Charter and principles and which flouts international law, the U.S. Administration is pushing the international situation toward an explosion and is helping increase world crises. Thus, it stands as an obstacle on the road to applying international law and is hampering the work of the International Court of Justice. The United States is not serving the cause of peace in the Middle East and the world. [passage omitted]

The PLO believes in and is committed to international legitimacy. Therefore, the 18th session of the PNC, which is the Palestinian people's parliament, including all of their representatives and organizations, proposed an international conference to be attended by all parties concerned, including the PLO on equal footing with other parties and with the participation of the permanent UN Security Council members, as a means for a solution. The PLO also proposed that this conference should have the necessary powers enabling it to reach an agreement based on the collective UN resolutions and with an international guarantee for its implementation without any preconditions. [passage omitted]

Gentlemen, you are men of rights and justice and this is an issue of rights for people who have been exposed to the greatest

injustice in modern times. [Passage omitted containing Koranic verses]

Revolution until victory.

'Arafat Arrives in Kuwait to Assess 'Situation'

LD111959 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1914 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Kuwait, 11 Jul (KUNA) -- PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived here this evening from Bangladesh on an official visit to Kuwait. He was met on arrival by Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, the minister of state for foreign affairs, and some senior PLO officials.

On arrival, 'Arafat told journalists that his visit to Kuwait "comes in these important and sensitive circumstances resulting from the threats to which Kuwait and the Gulf States are being subjected as a consequence of the escalation of the Iran-Iraq war."

He added: "After receiving his highness the amir of Kuwait's message, I replied 72 hours ago, and found it was my duty to come to Kuwait in order to satisfy myself about the situation here. This comes from our belief that anything that harms Kuwait, its security and stability, harms us."

Meets Amir, Prime Minister

LD121108 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] [No dateline as received] -- At 1100 today, the amir of Kuwait received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the members of his delegation on the occasion of their visit to the country. The audience was attended by Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs.

At 1145, the prime minister and heir apparent received in his office Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee Chairman, and the members of his delegation on the occasion of their visit to the country. Muhammad al-'Usaymi, Kuwaiti minister of state for foreign affairs, and the head of the PLO's office in Kuwait also attended the meeting.

Vows Support for Kuwait

LD122106 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1946 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Jul KUNA — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat announced here tonight the organization's stand at the side of Kuwait in its endeavors to stop the expansion of the Iraq-Iran war and to put an end to this conflict, which has been going on since 1980.

In a meeting with the Palestinian popular unions here at the headquarters of the organization, he said that the organization, on behalf of the Executive Committee, announces its stand with the Kuwaiti people and its brave amir, His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, in good times and bad.

Mr 'Arafat, who arrived here last night, reiterated his call for the convening of a summit of Islamic states "for 1 day in Kuwait in order to discuss the dangerous developments of the Iraq-Iran war."

He also said that there is a conspiracy behind the continuation of this war, the aim of which is to deflect the attention of the Arab nation and Iraq from its fundamental cause, which is the liberation of Palestine. He added that at the end of this war, Israel will not be able to stand one single battle such as the one fought by the Iraqi people east of Basrah.

Mr Yasir 'Arafat has called on the Iranian leadership to put an end to this war. He said to the Iranian president: "Enough of this war, enough of this war, enough of this war."

He also pointed out: "We want peace in the Arab Gulf region for the sake of its peoples, for the sake of the Iraqi and Iranian peoples, because we want peace in which we will regain Jerusalem together."

Mubarak Returns to Cairo, Makes Statement
NC111825 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1638 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jul (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo from Geneva this afternoon after a 4-day visit to the SFRY and Switzerland. Upon his arrival in Cairo, Mubarak made a statement to newsmen in which he said: King Husayn and I are cooperating to promote the peace process. We are also seeking to convene an international conference this year.

Mubarak added: I met with several international figures, as well as with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, and we discussed topics relevant to the international conference. He noted that there is nothing new regarding such a conference. He stated: We want a decision so that we can proceed toward Palestinian representation and an agenda for the conference. He asserted that an agenda must not be a matter of form, but must involve specific activity.

Mubarak continued: I believe there is now partial agreement, but these international issues take time, particularly with the superpowers. He stated that he had sent Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to meet with His Majesty King Husayn in London in order to convey to him the outcome of the talks on this subject, to keep him informed, and to coordinate positions, thereby avoiding any differences on any issue, which would only benefit those opposed to the conference.

Asked about Israeli Foreign Minister Peres' position, Mubarak said there is no change in his stand and he still seeks to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East. He asserted: "Let us speak frankly. Agreement was reached on the international conference in 1977. It convened once in Geneva but was then discontinued. Why do people say no to an international conference, since it has already convened in Geneva? This is nothing new, and the international conference is not a new invention. It was previously convened in Geneva and differences arose at that time. When they again agree to this conference, it will just be a continuation of the peace process."

Responding to a question on whether the momentum to convene an international conference is stronger than the differences in Israel, President Mubarak said: I have nothing to do with the differences in Israel. They are a purely domestic issue. The Israelis may differ among themselves, but we speak on an international level. The whole world agrees on the need to convene an international conference, and it is inevitable that they will agree to it as well. Mubarak added: Our brothers in the PLO must find a way to join the conference. I do not intend to define a specific way for them, as certain Israeli papers have reported today. Of course, I did not say what they reported.

Mubarak stressed the need for PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and his colleagues to discuss ways of joining in the international conference and to find a specific formula for participation. He added: "We are not inventing plans because we do not want them to say we imposed formulas on them. We do not impose formulas on anyone. We are a state that seeks to stimulate the peace process. I am telling the Palestinians to look for a way to participate in the international conference instead of opposing it and then being left out."

Asked about the results of his latest meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, especially with regard to the international conference for peace, President Mubarak replied: The conference first depends on us and on the countries concerned. Furthermore, the United States does not impose a solution on anyone.

Responding to a question about the reactions of the heads of state and of delegations whom he met in Geneva to his speech at the conference, Mubarak said: I did not fabricate the serious information outlined in this speech. We obtained the information from UN statistics which prove there is an advanced world and a backward one. Yet, all are in the same boat; should it sink everyone would drown: The captain, the young and old, the rich and poor. Therefore, we implore that they take action. I believe you have heard the great speech French President Mitterrand delivered.

In reply to a question on what action has been taken regarding the initiatives he presented before the previous UNCTAD conference in Belgrade, Mubarak stated: You can ask the rich countries about these proposals. Why do you ask me? He added: We must not tire of demanding our rights. If no recommendations were made regarding the previous conference, this does not mean we should now remain silent. We will continue to talk in international forums until recommendations that can be implemented are reached.

Receives Message From Chirac
NC130630 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has received a message from French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac. The message was handed to him by French Health Minister Michel Barzakh [title and name as received] whom he received today. In announcing this, Health Minister Raghib Duwaydar said that aspects of cooperation between Egypt and France in various fields, particularly that of health, were discussed during the meeting. Dr Duwaydar added that prospects for the exchange of expertise and the allocation of scholarships and assignments for Egyptian doctors in France were also examined, as was work for the establishment of centers for the maintenance of medical equipment and instruments and the training of Egyptian technicians and engineers in maintenance procedures.

Dr Duwaydar said that during the meeting, President Mubarak had praised the progress in French-Egyptian relations and had issued directives concerning the maintenance of medical equipment and instruments.

Iranian-Backed 'Terrorist' Group 'Uncovered'
NC130844 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 11 Jul 87 p 1

[Excerpts] Amin Radwan reports from Cairo: Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr has said that Egyptian security forces

have uncovered what he describes as a new terrorist organization backed by Iran and Hizballah in Lebanon.

Speaking at a news conference in Kafr al-Shaykh Governorate on Thursday, 9 July, Badr said that the "members of the terrorist group," which had chosen a governorate in Lower Egypt as a center for their operations, "were caught in possession of explosives ready for use in various parts of the country." He added: "The security services managed to foil the scheme, apprehend the members of the group, and confiscate the explosives. The persons arrested were referred to the public prosecutor for interrogation."

The Egyptian evening paper *Al-Masa'* said Egyptian authorities have arrested an Iranian national, a Jordanian citizen, and five Palestinians on suspicion of supplying money and weapons fror Iran to a fundamentalist Islamic group in Egypt. According t the paper, these persons were collaborating with the Al-Jihad Organization to "undermine stability in the country." It added that Egyptians associated with them were also arrested, but did not state their number.

Egyptian Interior Ministry spokesman Colonel Ahmad Salah declined to comment on this report, saying that it was "published on the paper's own responsibility."

Al-Masa' added that Najati Saljuq, an Iranian national, was in charge of coordinating relations between Iran and Al-Jihad. He was also responsible for channeling money and arms to Egyptian fundamentalists. [passage covered]

It is also reported that the investigation into the assassination attempt against former Interior Minister Hasan Abu Basha has reached a dead end. The authorities have failed to uncover any new information about the case. This is because the three defendants insistently deny the charges and witnesses have failed to identify the defendants. [passage omitted]

AL-ANBA' Publishes Names

JN121436 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 11 Jul 87 p 1

[Text] Cairo — *Al-Anba'* has learned that the authorities have arrested five Palestinians, a Jordanian, and an Iranian for financing the extremist religious organization which the Egyptian interior minister recently revealed, and that they are being interrogated.

The Palestinians are: Na'im 'Uthman Yusuf, Ra'id Mustafa 'Abd al-Hamid, Muhammad Hasan al-Bayyumi, Jamal Hasan al-Bayyumi, and 'Irfan Rizq. The Iranian is Najati Saljuq, who acted as a liaison between the Egyptian and Palestinian members of the organization.

Interrogation sources refused to reveal the name and role of the Jordanian national. It was said that he had visited Egypt often recently, taking advantage of the new land route between the two countries. It was learned that Na'im 'Uthman had arrived in Egypt from Rafah secretly and that the fianciers had paid money and brought arms and explosives to destablize the country.

Security Arrests Engineer With 'Spying Device'

NC110518 Cairo MENA in English 2210 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, July 10 (MENA) — The State Security Investigation Department has arrested a young engineer in a lower Egyptian governorate, finding at home a spying device and some forged cards proving that he is an officer in police and Armed Forces sectors, tomorrow's *Akhbar al-Yawm* learned.

The State Security Investigation Department of Cairo is interrogating this engineer, who works with Free Enterprises, on how he obtained this device and the source which furnished him with it, the paper's front-page item says.

He is also being questioned by the department about how he got these cards, and whether he is working within an international or an internal terrorist scheme.

Security agencies are making wide-ranging investigations into the career of this engineer to know everything about his life, the paper adds.

Al-Mahjub Meets With Sudanese Party Official

NC121430 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA) — People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub has affirmed Egypt's full readiness to promote relations with Sudan and to respond to any Sudanese views and proposals in a manner that will benefit the interests of both fraternal states.

This was stated during Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub's meeting at noon today with Mr Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, leader of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party, who is currently visiting Cairo.

During the meeting, the two officials discussed ways to boost cooperation and to intensify contacts between the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party and the Egyptian NDP.

Mr al-Mirghani stressed the importance of promoting cooperation between Egypt and Sudan.

Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General Arrives

NC130820 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA) — Avraham Tamir, Israeli Foreign Ministry director general, arrived in Cairo this morning on a visit to Egypt expected to last several days.

Muhammad Basyuni, Egypt's ambassador to Israel, arrived on the same plane as Tamir.

Ambassador Basyuni will hold consultations with Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials in preparation for the visit to Israel by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Parliamentary Delegation Leaves for India

NC131025 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jul (MENA) — An Egyptian parliamentary delegation led by People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub left Cairo for New Delhi this morning on a 4-day visit at the invitation of the Indian Parliament. The delegation includes People's Assembly members Kamal al-Shadhili, Sufi Abu Talib, Yasin Siraj al-Din, Muhammad 'Abdallah, and Mrs Imtithal al-Dib.

Dr al-Mahjub stated that he is carrying messages from President Husni Mubarak to the Indian president and to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. He emphasized Egypt's strong and historic relations with India, noting that Egypt, India, and Yugoslavia are founders of nonalignment. He expressed hope that this visit would give impetus to nonaligned activities, noting that it would provide an opportunity to continue the dialogue that began with Indian parliamentarians during that parliamentary delegation's visit to Egypt.

Planning Minister Returns From Greece 12 Jul

NC130648 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2142 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jul (MENA) — Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and international cooperation, returned to Cairo this evening after a 5-day visit to Greece.

During his visit, Dr al-Janzuri headed the Egyptian delegation to the meetings of the Joint Egyptian-Greek Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation, which held its first session in the Greek capital from 8 to 11 July. The promotion of economic cooperation between Egypt and Greece, the prospects for joint projects in industry, agriculture, and maritime transport, and the development of trade between the two countries were discussed during the meetings.

Oil Official Says 12 New Productive Wells Dug

NC111217 Cairo MENA in English 1105 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Cairo, July 11 (MENA) — Four international oil prospecting companies have dug twelve productive oil wells during the first half of this year in a number of areas in preparation for putting them on the Egyptian oil production map, a source at the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) said.

During the same period, twenty six exploratory wells were also dug to prospect for petroleum and natural gas, carried out by seven specialised companies in their respective areas of concession in the Gulf of Suez, Sinai and the western desert, the EGPC source added.

He pointed out, however, that putting new wells on the production map does not mean any increase in the Egyptian oil output which has been limited to a ceiling of 870,000 barrels per day. To keep production within this figure, coordination is in effect among oil-fields throughout the country, he said.

Nine oil prospecting agreements were concluded during the first quarter of this year and procedures are under way for issuing the relative regulations, the source added.

Any Move Toward Aozou 'Declaration of War'

LD121536 Tripoli JANA in English 1435 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Tripoli, Nasser [July] 12, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — In reply to the statements of Habre on the presence of Libyan military build up in the northern part of Chad and his saying that Great Jamahiriyah is preparing for the launch of a new attack a spokesman for the People's Committee for the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau declared the following:

First...There are no Libyan forces in Chad...and the repeated talk of their presence is an accustomed repetition by Western news media in spreading the lies of Ndjamena in justification for the organic linkage of the authority of the capital in Ndjamena and the imperialist forces and specifically France and America.

Second...The Libyan forces are present at the international borders of Jamahiriyah. But if the subject matter meant is Aozou, as reiterated by Libya in the past, it is an integral part of the Libyan territory like the Gulf of Sidra, Tripoli and Banghazi.

Third...The spread by the puppet gangs of Ndjamena of lies repeated by the imperialist media are merely a hollow attempt to justify the reality of the total French military occupation of Chadian territory.

The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah warns of the repercussions of any move or provocation towards its international borders...It considers any military action against Aozou as a declaration of war by the authority of the capital in Ndjamena and those who support it. And this is in an assertion of the past stand of Jamahiriyah.

Algerian Official, Delegation Arrive 11 Jul

LD111828 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1808 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Al-Bayan al-Awwal, 11 Jul (JANA) — Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Algerian FLN Political Bureau and head of the Permanent Secretariat, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Al-Bayan al-Awwal, Banghazi, this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Messaadia

LD111834 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1811 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Jul (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution today received Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and head of the Algerian FLN Party Permanent Secretariat.

Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia gave to the brother leader of the revolution a message from President Chadli Bendjedid concerning the unionist steps underway between the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria.

Nicaraguan Vice President, Delegation on Visit

LD111829 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Tripoli, 11 Jul (JANA) — Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli at noon today on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. This visit comes withinthe framework of consolidating bilateral relations and developing cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD121842 Tripoli JANA in English 1733 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Tripoli, Nasser [July] 12, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The leader of the revolution received Mr Sergio Ramirez, the vice president of the Republic of Nicaragua, and the delegation accompanying him.

DFLP's Hawatimah Arrives in Tripoli 12 Jul

LD121933 Tripoli JANA in English 1730 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Tripoli, Nasser [July] 12, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Nayif Hawatimah, the secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, arrived this evening in Tripoli on a visit to Great Jamahiryah.

In a statement to the correspondent of JANA at Tripoli International Airport, Hawatimah lauded the role of the leader of the revolution in the union of Palestinian resistance groups through the conference of national unity of Palestinian revolutionary groups held in Algiers which led to Palestinian unity of action and the drawing of a programme of action under the aegis of the PLO.

Military Source Cited on Recent Kidnappings

JN121621 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
11 Jul 87 p 3

[Text] Khartoum — A senior source at the Sudanese Army General Command has informed *Al-Ittihad* that the General Command possesses no information on the kidnapping of three U.S. citizens and a British nurse in the Equatoria Region by rebels, and that it cannot confirm or deny the kidnapping.

Meanwhile, the U.S. and British Embassies in Khartoum have kept silent about the incident. They are, however, in contact with the Sudanese Government on this matter.

Prime Minister Returns; Views Arab Tour

JN121116 Khartoum SUNA in English
1220 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum July 12 (SUNA) — Mr. al-Sadiq al-Mahdi the prime minister, who returned here yesterday from a six day long Arab tour has described his encounters with the leaders of those countries as "positive, successful and fruitful".

Al-Mahdi pointed that he has found understanding from the Arab leaders on "the challenges facing the Sudan in both the political and economic fields." He said committees would be set up to review all the issues agreed upon during his trip.

Meanwhile the Sudanese Economic Planning and Finance Minister Dr. Bashir 'Umar, who accompanied the premier during his Gulf tour said several agreements would be signed between the Sudan and the Arab states toured by the premier. He said his talks with the officials in these countries have focused on investment, trade, production and development inputs.

Al-Sayyid Hamad Named to State Council Post

JN111102 Khartoum SUNA in English
1030 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum July 11 (SUNA) -- Member of the Democratic Unionist Party Politburo Ahmad al-Sayyid Hamad will replace Muhammad al-Hasan 'Abdallah Yasin in the State Council, who resigned recently for unknown reasons, the daily *Al-Siyasah* reported today.

Mr Hamad is a prominent Sudanese politician. He worked as minister of the communication and transport during the era of ousted President Numayri following the national reconciliation which Numayri signed with the opposition group.

Paper Claims SPLM Soldiers Trained in Cuba

JN111137 Khartoum SUNA in English
1040 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum July 11 (SUNA) -- A daily paper has accused the Sudan People Liberation Movement 'SPLM' of Col John Garang of training 50 thousand of his soldiers in Cuba.

Al-Siyasah, in its today issue, revealed that Cuba is involved in the military operations in the south and Cuban military men are supervising the training of the rebels forces of Col Garang inside Ethiopia.

The press report went on to accuse the SPLM of preparing for a military operation in the south to benefit from the convening of the African summit which is scheduled to take place current month.

Some political parties inside the country and the foreign relief organizations are aiding the SPLM, the daily concluded.

Reports Termed 'Exaggeration'

JN131109 Khartoum SUNA in English
1010 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Text] Khartoum, July 13, (SUNA) — State Minister at the Ministry of Defence, Gen. Fadallah Burmah, described as "an exaggeration" the recent press reports regarding the numbers of southerners sent by Garang's movement in order to be trained in Cuba.

"We knew that more than a thousand of southerners have been sent to Cuba for training" the minister said, affirming the fact that Cuban experts are currently training the rebels of John Garang.

Burmah affirmed that the People's Armed Forces had their full control on the situation in the south.

INTER-GULF

French Defense Minister on Attacked French Ship

JN130722 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0700 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Text] French Defense Minister Andre Giraud announced in Paris today that a French cargo ship was attacked last night by unidentified gunboats in the Gulf waters between Kuwait and Bahrain.

The French defense minister said that according to preliminary information the attack on the ship *Ville D'avers* did not result in any casualties among the crew. This information also notes that the ship is now heading toward Bahrain. It is expected the vessel will be joined by a French warship.

French Defense Minister Andre Giraud said that he does not believe the attack on the French cargo ship in the Gulf is connected with the embassy crisis between France and Iran. However, he does not totally rule out such a possibility.

KUWAIT

Spokesman Denies IRNA Report on Executions

LD111918 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1845 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Kuwait, 11 Jul (KUNA) — Commenting on an IRNA report cited by certain foreign media on the execution of three people against whom death sentences had been passed in March 1984, after having been found guilty of attacking the French and U.S. Embassies and some public installations in the country earlier that year, a spokesman at the Interior Ministry has made the following statement to KUNA:

There is absolutely no truth in these allegations. Their contents are pure fabrication and not based on truth.

Envoy Discusses Current Gulf Shipping Problems

PM101323 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 8-14 Jul 87 pp 14,15

[Interview with Kuwaiti Ambassador to the United States Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah by unidentified correspondent in Washington; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] */Al-Majallah/* When will [Kuwaiti] tankers fly the U.S. flag?

[Al-Sabah] According to our information, the U.S. Administration's arrangements are being being made. This will take place in the near future.

/Al-Majallah/ What about objections in Congress?

[Al-Sabah] This is natural in any democratic system. There are questions being raised in Congress regarding this subject. There are those who are in favor of this and those who oppose it. We can see that the severity of the opposition in Congress has recently eased and that a kind of understanding has emerged toward the administration's policy in order to secure consensus without a defeat for either the administration or Congress. [passage omitted]

/Al-Majallah/ Another argument is now taking place in Washington with regard to the provision of military facilities for U.S. forces in the region.

[Al-Sabah] We would like to know what the definition of "facilities" is. And what do they mean? U.S. and British military ships remained in the Gulf visiting Gulf ports and were provided with fuel. All that happened was that Gulf states helped these ships. There are no "facilities" in the other sense; what is being said about "bases" and so forth is futile and should not be discussed. Anyway, our position is clear; namely, that these ships provide a guarantee in international waters. As for Kuwaiti territorial waters, they are Kuwait's responsibility.

/Al-Majallh/ Talking of Kuwaiti waters, what has happened regarding the issue of mines said to have been planted by Iran in Al-Ahmadi port?

[Al-Sabah] We are investigating the matter. There are experts in Kuwait who are studying the issue. The picture is not yet clear.

/Al-Majallah/ Is there cooperation with the United States in this regard?

[Al-Sabah] U.S. advisers went to Kuwait.

/Al-Majallah/ There is another argument within the U.S. Congress and media which you are following up; namely, that there is a fear that the U.S. military role in the Gulf may expand the Iraq-Iran war zone when there is a need to contain and end it.

[Al-Sabah] Matters should be considered as a whole, and all the dimensions and risks involved should be studied. The possibility of U.S. warships being threatened is likely. But our concept is that flying a U.S. flag would help limit such risks. Anyhow, this is something for the future and we will see how things progress. However, we do not believe our decision will lead to an expansion of the the war zone. [passage omitted]

/Al-Majallah/ Did the U.S. Administration put any pressure [on Kuwait] to limit the Soviet role?

[Al-Sabah] No, no pressure has been applied.

/Al-Majallah/ Have you sensed any dissatisfaction on the part of the Americans?

[Al-Sabah] Of course, we know U.S. policy does not encourage a Soviet presence in the Gulf. We know their opinion, but we will not allow one party or the other to interfere in our internal affairs. Anyhow, cooperation with the Soviet Union is purely commercial. [passage omitted]

/Al-Majallah/ There are reports on the possibility of direct or indirect U.S. contacts with Iran.

[Al-Sabah] We support and encourage any contacts of this kind, not with a view to supplying Iran with arms, but to urge it to end the war and solve problems peacefully.

[Al-Majallah] U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger mentioned that providing security for shipping in the Gulf will include Iranian ships.

[Al-Sabah] There is a great deal of talk. However, the real and true situation is that there are ships flying the U.S. flag; these have now become U.S. ships and are no longer Kuwaiti. We did not request protection, but requested that our ships be registered in the United States. These have already been registered and the United States is now responsible for its ships.

[Al-Majallah] What about the Iranian ships?

[Al-Sabah] Our main concern is freedom of navigation. As for protecting Iranian ships, this depends on Iran and its war with Iraq to which we are not a party.

UK Ready To Consider Reflagging of Tankers

LD120934 Kuwait KUNA in English 0806 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Kuwait, July 12 (KUNA) — Britain's Ambassador to Kuwait Peter Hinchcliffe said that any Kuwaiti request to raise British flags on Kuwaiti tankers will be taken into consideration and hinted it will receive favourable response.

In an exclusive interview with daily *Al-Anba'* , published here today, the British diplomat affirmed that Britain and Kuwait are tied with historical friendship and cooperation and his country is ready to give Kuwait anything it requests within the framework of these strong relations.

The British ambassador noted that the British Naval forces this year have escorted 100 ships that raise British flags in the Gulf.

He said that his country is ready to supply Kuwait with all its needs of arms, noting that Britain had previously supplied Kuwait with eight "Hawk" aircraft and 150 "Chieftain" tanks.

On the Iraq-Iran war, Hinchcliffe said that Britain supports all initiatives aiming at ending this destructive war, the continuation of which is useless, adding that his country is adhering to the arms embargo on the warring countries.

He affirmed that intensive contacts are currently underway to come up with a strict U.N. Security Council decision to halt the conflict and to take sanctions against the non-conforming party.

The British ambassador said that Iraq is responding to peace calls and is expected to accept the Security Council's resolution. The ambassador added it is difficult to guess how Iran will respond to this decision.

The diplomat said if Iran refuses to accept the Security Council's resolution then the council will meet again to take measures against Iran, as a recalcitrant party.

Concerning the diplomatic crisis between London and Tehran, the ambassador said this crisis is not the doing of Britain, noting, however, that the United Kingdom is ready to rebuild a constructive relation with Tehran if it secured Iran's respect to the British diplomatic immunity.

On the proposed international peace conference on the Middle East, Hinchcliffe said Britain supports the idea of the conference as a framework of negotiations between the concerned parties in the Middle East conflict.

Kuwaiti Hizballah Threaten U.S. Interests

LD111127 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] The *Islamic Republic News Agency* reports: In a statement, Kuwait's Hizballah has condemned Kuwait's action in flying U.S. flags on that country's oil tankers. The statement describes this action as a plot to smash the Muslim movement in the region and to harm the Islamic revolution.

According to this report, the statement by Kuwait's Hizballah declares: The U.S. Administration should bear in mind that the Islamic Revolution is a fact which has firmly taken root around the globe and that its shoots are prepared for martyrdom anywhere in the world. In its statement, Hizballah describes the attracting of U.S. fleets to the region by the Kuwaiti authorities, in order to protect Saddam, as a denigrating act. It adds: Should America, under the pretext of flying its flags on Kuwaiti oil tankers, try to support Saddam, then it will see how the Hizballah ummah will respond decisively to this conspiracy.

The statement continues: Hizballah is preparing itself throughout the world in order to deal blows to U.S. interests and to the strategic positions of this foremost enemy of Muslims. The Hizballah intends to attack the interests of the United States and of its lackeys in the region. This time, Muslim fighters will attack the heart of criminal U.S. positions in Washington and New York, so that the whole world will see how Reagan and the United States, these two paper tigers, will collapse under the horrific blows dealt by Muslims.

Arab League's Klibi Visits, Praises Diplomacy

LD121816 Kuwait KUNA in English 1608 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Kuwait, July 12 (KUNA) — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi said here Sunday that the "Arab family side with Kuwait in this delicate stage the region is passing through due to the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war."

Klibi, who arrived here this afternoon from Amman, was received by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-'Usaymi and Acting Foreign Undersecretary Faysal al-Saleh Al-Mutawa.

In a statement to KUNA, Klibi said that the backing of all Arab and international parties to Kuwait reflects Kuwait's distinguished status in the Arab Islamic and international arenas and sheds light on the active role undertaken by Kuwait's diplomacy

under the leadership of H.H. the Amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

He added the visit aims at discussing with H.H. the Amir and the government officials current and future efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war as well as Arab developments.

PDRY

Party Officials Address 'Misled' Returnees

EA101914 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] A meeting was held this morning in Zinjibar, in Abyan Governorate, with a group of people who were misled during the 13 January conspiracy and who were working in the Armed Forces. It was attended by brothers Sa'id Salih Salim, member of the Political Bureau and minister of state security; Colonel Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, candidate member of the Political Bureau and minister of defense; Sa'id Muhammad 'Ali Salah, member of the Central Committee and secretary of the committee of the party's organization in the governorate; and Muhammad 'Ali ba Shammakh, member of the Central Committee and chairman of the Executive Bureau of the local people's council in the governorate.

They stressed to the returnees the importance of the general amnesty decree and explained the dimensions of the 13 January conspiracy engineered by the opportunist right, led by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, which sought to destroy our country's revolutionary experiment and divert the course of the revolution away from its socialist orientation.

They pointed out that the general amnesty decree guaranteed the misled returnees a decent, secure, and stable life in their homeland among their kith and kin and provided jobs for them. They asked the returnees to take advantage of the general amnesty decree and to be loyal only to the party.

The returnees expressed gratification at being welcomed, stressing that they were at the beck and call of the party to repel any move against our country's revolution and the progressive regime. They called on the remaining misled people to return to the homeland, contribute toward construction, and to prevent hostile forces from implementing their aggressive plots against our country.

First Round of Official PDRY-Somali Talks Begin

Foreign Ministers Confer

EA112140 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, held a reception in honor of Brother Dr Abdurahman Jama Barre, the Somali foreign minister, and his delegation. The reception was attended by a number of brother officials from the party and government.

The first round of official talks between our country and the Somali Democratic Republic began this evening at the Foreign Ministry. The PDRY side was led by Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali,while the Somali side was led by Brother Dr Abdurahman Jama Barre. The first round of talks dealt with bilateral relations and cooperation in various cultural, economic, and consular fields, as well as ways to strengthen and promote them in the interests of the Yemeni and Somali peoples. In addition, there was an exchange of views on a number of issues of interest to the two countries in various fields, as well as the most important current Arab and international affairs of mutual interest.

At the beginning of the talks, Brother al-Dali welcomed Brother Barre on his visit to his second homeland, the PDRY, to acquaint himself with the most important achievements by our party and people during the past period. He wished him and his delegation a happy stay in the PDRY.

In reply, Brother Barre expressed his happiness at visiting the PDRY to familiarize himself with the achievements realized by the Yemeni people in various fields, stressing that the SDR is linked to the PDRY by ancient fraternal relations. He said that the SDR is working to develop bilateral relations in various economic, commercial, and cultural fields.

Nu'man Meets Somalia's Barre

EA130943 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, this afternoon received in his office Brother Dr Abdurahman Jana Barre, the SDR Foreign minister, with whom he reviewed relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to strengthen and develop them. They also discussed a number of current Arab and international issues of common interest.

At the beginning of the meeting, Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man welcomed the Brother Somali foreign minister and his delegation on their visit to their second country, the PDRY, wishing them a happy stay and peaceful visit. The brother chairman of the Council of Ministers stressed the importance of deepening bilateral relations in various fields in the interests of the Yemeni and Somali people, stressing the historical relations linking the peoples of the two fraternal countries. He also stressed the importance of exchanges between the mass, cultural, and creative organizations of the two countries. The brother prime minister referred to the importance of concerted efforts by countries of the littorals of the Red Sea and Arabian Gulf to transform the region into one of peace, security, and stability, secure against the threat of military intervention by the imperialist powers.

Replying, the brother Somali foreign minister expressed pleasure to be visiting our country to familiarize himself with our country's achievements. He expressed admiration for the cultural and historical landmarks of the Yemeni people, describing them as truly expressive of the authenticity of Yemeni civilization. The brother minister conveyed to Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man the greetings of Brother Muhammad Ali Samatur, the Somali prime

minister, and briefed him on the achievements of the Somali people in various areas.

He expressed his satisfaction at the progress of talks with our country.

The brother chairman of the Council of Ministers asked the brother minister to convey his greetings to Brother Mohammad Ali Samantar, the SDR prime minister.

The meeting was attended by brother Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, Awad Mashbah, our country's ambassador to Somalia, and the brother ambassador of the SDR in our country.

SAUDI ARABIA

Ethiopian Foreign Minister Continues Visit

Meets Defense Minister

LD111044 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1004 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Al-Ta'if, 11 Jul (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general, conferred at his office in Al-Ta'if this afternoon with His Excellency Berhanu Bayeh, member of the Political Bureau and Ethiopian foreign minister, and the delegation accompanying him on his visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Talks With Foreign Minister

LD111048 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0952 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Al-Ta'if 11 Jul (SPA) — His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, held a meeting this morning with Berhanu Bayeh, member of the Political Bureau and Ethiopian foreign minister, at the the Palace of Congresses in Al-Ta'if.

During this meeting, bilateral relations were discussed, as well as ways to improve them. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Mahdi Continues Visit

Meets With King Fahd

LD111449 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God preserve him, held a meeting with Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi at the Al-'Aqiq Palace this afternoon.

The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation and inspector general; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and economy; and 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Sudayri, ambassador of the custodian of the holy mosques to Sudan.

For the Sudanese side, the meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Tawfiq Ahmad, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning Dr Bashir 'Umar, and Sudanese ambassador to the Kingdom 'Isa Mustafa.

Holds News Conference

LD112119 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 11 Jul (SPA) — Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said that his encounter with the custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz was devoted to a discussion of bilateral relations and ways to strengthen and promote them in the interest of the two countries and fraternal peoples.

At a press conference he held prior to his departure from the Kingdom, he said that the encounter with the custodian of the two holy mosques was a good conclusion to a series of meetings which have been and will always continue to be in the service of the two peoples and the Arab and Islamic nation.

Al-Mahdi stressed that he had discussed ways of cooperation and coordination to end the 7-year Iraq-Iran war, which is depleting the resources of the two nations. He emphasized the eagerness of the two countries to adopt a unified Arab-Islamic stand to contain this war and put an end to it.

He added: The talks dealt in detail with bilateral relations and reinforcing the two countries' strong links, based on the Islamic faith, inter-Arab ties, and mutual interest. He affirmed that the historic brotherhood linking the two countries should be maintained and preserved by all means.

He voiced appreciation for the warm welcome, understanding, cooperation, and friendship he experienced in the Kingdom.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi pointed out that Sudan is about to embark on a 4-year development plan. It is expected that among the goalsof this plan will be the achievement of Arab food security. [as received] He also welcomed the undertaking of common projects of mutual interest. He said that what we have heard from officials in the Kingdom was positive, especially in the field of investments with regard to the private sector in the two countries.

The prime minister of Sudan said that the national constitutional conference in Sudan will assess all proposals for solving the problem of South Sudan. He expressed the hope that all political forces, including the southern forces, will respond to the calls made by Sudan to resolve this problem.

He added that Sudan supports the convening of an Arab summit conference and appreciates the efforts being made by the Kingdom, under the chairmanship of the custodian of the two holy mosques, to clear the Arab atmosphere, to end the Iraq-Iran war, and to support the Palestinian resistance. It also appreciates the concern of the Kingdom for the unity of the Lebanese forces and for resolving the Afghan question.

The prime minister of Sudan affirmed the strength of Sudanese-Egyptian relations and said that the fraternity accord signed between the two countries constitutes a new framework for these relations.

Holds Airport Meeting, Departs
LD112050 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1707 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 11 Jul (SPA) — Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi met with Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, at Al-Ta'if Airport prior to his departure at the end of his visit to the Kingdom. The meeting was attended by his royal highness the foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and the Saudi ambassador to Sudan, 'Abd al-Muhsin ibn Muhammad al-Sudayri. For the Sudanese side, the meeting was attended by Sudanese Foreign Minister Muhammad Tawfiq Ahmad, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning Bashir 'Umar, and Sudanese ambassador to the Kingdom 'Issa Mustafa.

Discussions during the meeting covered matters of mutual interest and bilateral relations.

[Riyadh SPA in Arabic at 1710 GMT on 11 July report: "Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi left Al-Ta'if at 1800 today for home at the end of his 3-day working visit, during which he met with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud."]

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives, Makes Statement
JN130903 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0740 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Jul (WAKH) — Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, arrived in Abu Dhabi from Al-Ta'if this morning on a short visit to the UAE. UAE Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah received the Saudi foreign minister upon arrival.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that he is bringing a message to His Highness Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the UAE president, from Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, as part of the continuous coordination and consultation among the GCC leaders, particularly at this eventful stage. He affirmed the pressing need for such consultations.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that he will hold talks with Rashid 'Abdallah on regional issues.

Asked whether the GCC states have embarked on new efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war, Al-Faysal replied that the GCC states have not halted efforts to this effect, expressing hope that all efforts to stop the war will succeed. He noted that the continuation of the 7-year old war, the victims, material losses, and the threats to expand the conflict, are reasons for exerting efforts to achieve peace in the region.

Regarding the possibilities of convening an Arab summit in Saudi Arabia this year, the Saudi prince noted that Saudi Arabia has completed all preparations to convene the summit any time the circumstances are suitable with the minimum level of Arab agreement toward the main Arab issues, particularly the Palestinian issue, the Iraq-Iran war, and the Lebanese crisis.

Al-Faysal announced that Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi will visit Saudi Arabia today to present the results of his tour with regard to convening the summit — results which he described as fruitful.

Answering a question about reports of convening a mini-Arab summit which will include Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, and Jordan, Al-Faysal said: Preparations are underway in Saudi Arabia to hold the Arab summit.

YAR

Ethiopia Foreign Minister Meets Salih
EA102156 Addis Ababa in Amharic to Neighboring Countries 1600 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has announced that Comrade Berhanu Bayeh, member of the WPE [Workers Party of Ethiopia] Central Committee Political Bureau and foreign minister, has presented a special message from the comrade secretary general to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, leader of the YAR. It also said that after presenting the message from Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, secretary general of the WPE Central Committee, PMAC [Provisional Military Administrative Council] chairman, and commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, the comrade minister had extensive discussions on the progress of the Ethiopian revolution, bilateral relations, and international and regional issues. At the Ethiopian Embassy, the comrade minister briefed the Ethiopian community on the development and progress of the Ethiopian revolution. He held talks with members of the community.

Earlier, Comrade Berhanu held discussions with Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and YAR foreign minister, on bilateral relations and regional and international issues.

The Foreign Ministry added that at the end of its working tour of the YAR, the delegation led by Comrade Berhanu Bayeh left for Saudi Arabia today for a similar working visit.

Battlefront Reports From Gulf Conflict Continue

'Terrorist Operations' Denied

JN101543 Baghdad INA in English 1535 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] Baghdad, July 10, INA — An Iraqi military spokesman has categorically denied Iranian enemy allegations on "terrorist operations", in the northern Iraqi province of Irbil.

He stressed that the situation is stable in all border areas and our citizens there are practicing their normal daily works and extending support to their Armed Forces in achieving recent victories in which the Iranian enemy sustained nearly 20,000 killed or wounded.

Communique No 2,737 Issued

JN101615 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Communique No 2,737 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 10 July 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious troops, with their high morale, continue confronting the remnants of brutality and aggression, daily inflicting new losses on the Zionist Khomeyniites with their heroic activities.

The results of our forces' activities for last night and today are as follows:

1. A brave force from one of our units in the II Army Corps central sector carried out a successful raid on a number of enemy positions. Our formation was able to kill three scoundrels and wound others, while the remainder escaped. The enemy positions were destroyed. Our forces returned safely to base.

2. Our artillery and tank units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah delivered heavy blows against the enemy positions opposite them, inflicting further losses and halting the enemy's engineering efforts. In another area in the same sector, three scoundrels were killed.

3. Our brave naval force spotted two enemy boats, pounded them with various weapons, and forced them to flee to the Iranian coast.

4. Our brave men in the I Army Corps northern sector affirm their overwhelming superiority over the enemy. Today, they directed concentrated fire at selected enemy targets. A number of our formations also carried out brave operations against the despotic aggressors, inflicting upon them further losses in weapons and equipment.

5. Our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan destroyed three enemy vehicles, one of which was loaded with ammunition, and detonated an ammunition dump.

6. One enemy machinegun was destroyed and its crew were killed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 10 July 1987

Communique No 2,738 Issued

JN111130 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1033 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Communique No 2,738 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 11 July 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God since he gave us strength and determination, granted us victory, and made us victorious in the honorable epic we wage in defense of our religion, sanctities, territory, and honor. Praise be to God, as he leads us on the righteous and victorious path under the banner of the prophet's grandson, the hero of the Arabs, and the struggler for God and people, President Saddam Husayn. May God protect him.

O citizens, your brave Armed Forces, which have the honor of defending your territory, houses, and present and future lives — the Armed Forces that have won many battles in Saddam's glorious Al-Qadisiyah and smashed the aggressors' intentions — have decided not to allow one inch of our chaste land to be desecrated by the brutality, covetousness, and hatred of the Zionist agent Iranian rulers.

In implementing our leader President Saddam Husayn's instructions and embodying this pledge, the Al-Husayn Forces — who are known for their bravery — at 0330 today [2330 GMT on 10 July] carried out the martyr of all martyrs' operations, launching a sweeping attack on the enemy's footholds in the southern Majnun field's eastern and western dikes. With a violent attack by the brave men of the infantry and engineering units into no-man's-land — supported by armor and artillery units, as well as by our heroic Air Force and daring Army aircraft — our victorious formations plowed their way to their targets over enemy corpses. With God's help, an efficient field command, and the men's determination and faithfulness to their homeland, our forces reached the attacking force's assigned targets. Our men purged several kilometers of our good land and inflicted extremely heavy losses on the enemy, who left hundreds of dead behind in no-man's-land and in the water. To hell with them, as this is their miserable fate.

Our forces also captured scores of enemy scoundrels after making it very difficult for them to escape. The situation was thus settled in favor of our victorious forces. Glory and pride to the heroic VI Army Corps — commanders, officers, and soldiers. We congratulate you on this blessed victory which you gave to your people under Staff Major General Sultan Hashim Ahmad. We also congratulate you on this great victory and all your splendid victories, O brave men of the Al-Husayn Forces, the doers of good deeds in the epic of the homeland's defense — commanders, officers, and soldiers — under Staff Brigadier General Yalcin 'Umar 'Adil. Long live our great people. Long live our heroic leader, President Saddam Husayn. God preserve him as a source of pride for his nation and people. Long live our brave Armed

Forces, the shield of the homeland. Continuous victory to our beloved Iraq while we proceed on the march of freedom and defend the principles of justice and peace. Shame and defeat to the Zionist Khomeyniite clique. Praise be to God, the greatest supporter.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 July 1987

Communique No 2,739 Issued
JN111720 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1605 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Communique No 2,739 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 11 July 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Iraq's men proceed from one victory to another in accomplishing splendid deeds. These will remain a source of pride for the Arab nation both today and in the future. A roundup of activities for last night and today follows:

1. Our mighty Air Force continues to be the arm of justice that mercilessly strikes at the enemy. It daily eliminates numerous enemy scoundrels, crushes their military machine, destroys their vital installations, and cuts off their supply lines until they are compelled to accept justice. Aircraft of our daring Air Force carried out the following missions today:

A. The daring pilots dealt devastating blows to 10 enemy artillery emplacements opposing our valiant forces on the heroic VI Army Corps front. Explosions were observed throughout the area that was attacked.

B. This morning a destructive blow was struck against a surface-to-air Hawk missile battery supplied by the Zionists to their Khomeyniite allies positioned opposite our forces in the heroic VI Army Corps sector. A direct hit was scored while explosions were observed in the targeted area.

C. Our bold pilots attacked approximately 65 vehicles and trailers of various types located opposite our valiant forces in the heroic I Army Corps sector. They succeeded in setting these vehicles on fire and reducing them to rubble.

D. Combat missions carried out by Air Force aircraft against enemy troop concentrations, vehicles, and artillery emplacements in operational sectors today totaled 64 sorties. Our aircraft then returned safely to base in God's care and protection. Blessed be our Air Force for its great efforts — commanders, hawks, officers, and soldiers. We seek victory and assistance from God.

2. The courageous helicopter gunship knights aid in achieving splendid victories over God's enemies, our Zionist Khomeyniite enemies. Today our knights offered outstanding military support to our triumphant forces while crushing enemy remnants in the VI Army Corps sector. They also carried out other heroic activities in the operational sectors and inflicted heavy losses on the aggressors with 58 combat missions. Our knights then returned safely to base with their helicopter gunships in God's care and protection.

3. Our brave units in the I Army Corps northern sector destroyed a tubular launcher and a shovel [preceding word in English], detonated two ammunition dumps, and killed a number of scoundrels. Our units in this sector also seized the following weapons and a quantity of equipment earlier abandoned by the enemy: 13 rifles of various types, 10 RPG-7 launchers, 1 medium machinegun, and 2 radio sets.

4. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, a shovel and a medium machinegun were destroyed, and four Kalashnikov rifles and two RPG-7 launchers were captured.

5. The criminal enemy shelled the villages of Derah and (Kodarin) in (Al-'Aziziyah) District with long-range artillery. The enemy shelling injured seven civilians, including three women. May our wounded have a speedy recovery, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 11 July 1987

Residential Bombing Denied
JN111921 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1908 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jul (INA) — An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian allegations that Iraqi aircraft bombed purely residential targets. In a statement to INA tonight, the spokesman declared that Iraqi air activity today was devoted to offering air support for achieving the splendid victories realized by the Iraqi forces in the southern Majnun field. Air support was also employed to destroy Iranian artillery emplacements, military vehicles, and positions.

Communique No 2,740 Issued
JN121638 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Communique No 2,740 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 12 July 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant units continued their combat activities against the aggressors. A roundup of activities for last night and today follows:

1. The brave helicopter gunship knights carried out successful raids against enemy units, killing many rogues and destroying a large amount of enemy equipment and positions. After flying 27 combat sorties, the brave knights returned safely to base with their helicopters.

2. A heroic force of one of our units in the II Army Corps central sector raided enemy positions opposite its own location. It engaged the rogues with all types of weaponry, killing or wounding several of them and destroying three positions. The force then returned safely to its own position. Elsewhere in the same sector, a 20-man enemy patrol was engaged in combat. This ended with most of the enemy patrol members being killed, while the remainder fled.

3. Our brave units in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris continued their heroic activities against the enemy. They inflicted further losses on the Iranians in addition to the following: 2 enemy boats were destroyed and all of their occupants killed; 1 raft was destroyed; 1 60-mm mortar was destroyed; several ammunition dumps were detonated; and 11 rifles, 2 RPG-7 launchers, and 1 medium machinegun were captured.

4. Using artillery, our units in the I Army Corps northern sector pounded selected enemy targets. They inflicted further losses on the Khomeyniites, destroying one vehicle and one shovel [preceding word in English]. Our forces also captured five rifles of various types, four RPG-7 launchers, and one radio.

5. Five enemy soldiers were killed and others wounded, two observation posts and two weapons emplacements were destroyed, and the enemy's engineering works were disrupted in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. Two shovels were destroyed and three ammunition dumps were detonated in the VII Army Corps sector.

7. Three enemy soldiers were killed in the Special I Army Corps sector of the Allahu Akbar Forces.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 July 1987

Communique No 2,741 Issued

JN131010 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0907 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Communique No 2,741 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 13 July 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O lofty Iraqis: As you celebrate our glorious revolution — the revolution of the independent path and giant achievements, the revolution led by the nation's knight, its great hero, the beloved of Iraqis, the Arabs, and honest people in the entire world, President Saddam Husayn, God preserve him, the skillful creator of ideal Iraq, the builder of freedom and well-being for all citizens — your Air Force, together with your victorious soldiers, continues to inflict abominable defeats on the rancorous shu'ubist Khomeyniite clique. Your Air Force succeeds through its daring raids and devastating blows against our nation's enemies. It embodies Iraq's indisputable right to destroy all vital installations and supplies used by the charlatanist regime, under orders from Zionism, to prolong the war.

In an expression of Iraq's capability at any time and place, as well as of the determination and skillful performance of our heroic Air Force — commanders, hawks, officers, and men — our aircraft traveled to the distant Iranian island of Farsi. Our valiant hawks penetrated the enemy defenses and delivered devastating blows to this island's oil installations by striking them accurately. After carrying out this mission at 0956 [0546 GMT] today, our hawks returned with their aircraft, safely and victorious, to the homeland in God's care.

Earlier at 0905 today, other Iraqi Air Force aircraft dealt an accurate, effective blow to a large maritime target near the Iranian coast. They then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

Pride be to you, O brave men of our Air Force. Pride and glory to you, O lofty Iraqis, while continuing the march behind your great leader. Praise be to God for his victory over the unjust people.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 13 July 1987

Soviet Consular Delegation Arrives in Tel Aviv
TA131111 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1050 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Report by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami]

[Excerpt] Well, the Soviet consular delegation that has been talked about so much arrived in Israel last night. There are six [as heard] delegation members: two members of the Consular Department of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, a member of the Middle East branch, a secretary, and a chauffeur. They are in Tel Aviv under the patronage of the Finnish Embassy, which represents the interests of the Soviet Union in Israel. Aside from the confirmation we received from the Foreign Ministry about the fact of the delegation's arrival last night, this delegation has not yet made any contact with the Jerusalem Foreign Ministry for the purpose of making technical arrangements for help in its tasks. Incidentally, the Finnish ambassador is presently in the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, and the first contacts may be under way at this very moment. [passage omitted on Helsinki talks and Peres' report to the Cabinet on contacts with the Soviets]

Makeup, Agenda of Delegation
TA131148 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1130 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel]

[Text] The Soviet consular delegation, which is made up of eight members, is headed by Plikhin and Antipov, deputies to the head of the Foreign Ministry Consular Administration in Moscow, and includes another representative of the Middle Eastern Countries Department and a small logistical back-up team composed of a secretary, a driver, and security personnel.

The group secretly arrived in Israel last night. The time of its arrival was kept secret by both the Finnish Embassy and the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, apparently to avoid crowds and demonstrations at Ben-Gurion Airport. Officially, the delegation came here to discuss consular rather than political matters: to examine Soviet property in Israel and deal with the affairs of Soviet citizens living here.

It is unclear how long the Soviet team will stay here; it may stay for a long time. The members of the delegation are scheduled to hold their first meeting at the Foreign Ministry Claims Division in Jerusalem. Foreign Ministry officials said today that at this point there are no plans for the members of the delegation to hold meetings other than with medium-level officials, and that this consular delegation is no substitute for a real dialogue between Jerusalem and Moscow on bilateral issues.

Soviets Begin Contacts
TA131319 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Text] The Soviet consular delegation, which arrived in Israel last night, began initial contacts this morning to make arrangements for its visit. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that a representative of the Finnish Embassy in Israel, which represents Soviet interests, visited the Foreign Ministry on the matter of the delegation's visit.

Our correspondent Gid'on Remez adds that the delegation members will not visit East Jerusalem or places beyond the Green Line. Therefore, the Soviets will not be able to deal with the assets of the Russian Church here, referred to as the White Church. Officials of this church said that, based on remarks made by authorized sources in Israel, they were convinced the White Church's rights would not be harmed.

Peres Expects Negotiations With USSR in Aug
TA121516 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Signs of a thaw in Israeli-Soviet relations: Negotiations with the Soviet Union over the exit of Jews and the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries will resume in August, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres announced in today's Cabinet session. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports:

According to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' report to the Cabinet, there has been no real change in the Soviet position regarding the Middle East. Vladimir Polyakov told Richard Murphy that his country objects to an international conference with the power to impose a solution, but in the same breath added that the Palestinian problem must be discussed within the framework of an international conference and not be the topic of separate negotiations between Israel and Jordan. As is known, both Israel and the United States object to this.

Nevertheless, there is something new: The Soviets told the Americans that the issue of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and the resumption of diplomatic relations would be discussed in direct talks between the Soviet Union and Israel. Peres said at the Cabinet session that negotiations on this issue would resume in August, but he did not elaborate on the way the contacts would be conducted.

The Yugoslav president also told the foreign minister in their meeting in Geneva that the Soviets want to establish contacts with Israel.

According to an aggreement between Peres and Mubarak, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid will come here on a visit. The visit will take place this month, and its exact date will be set in coordination with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Peres said.

Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i asked why the same Cabinet session that was asked to approve Peres' trip to the UNCTAD session in Geneva was not also asked to approved his political talks. Peres said he did not want to reply directly to Moda'i who tends to attack him at every possible opportunity. However, he noted that his talks are held in his capacity as foreign minister and that the prime minister has been informed of them. [passage omitted]

Senior Sources Note 'Clear Hardening' in USSR Stand

TA130846 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Jul 87 pp 1, 8

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Benny Morris]

[Text] The Soviet Union intends to resume its direct dialogue with Israel within a few weeks, Foreign Minister Peres said at yesterday's weekly Cabinet meeting. He based himself on American reports about last week's U.S.-Soviet talks in Geneva.

But senior political sources in Jerusalem said last night that a "clear hardening" of the Soviet position on the Middle East and the peace process surfaced at the Geneva meetings between U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy and his Soviet counterpart, Vladimir Polyakov.

U.S. Ambassador to Israel Thomas Pickering and special Ambassador Wat Cluverius, who attended the talks at Murphy's side, briefed Peres and Prime Minister Shamir at length yesterday about the Soviet attitude.

According to the sources, the Soviets are now demanding that Israel undertake, before an international conference for the Middle East is convened, to withdraw to the 1967 borders. Polyakov also said that the Soviets believe that both UN Security Council Resolution 242 and the right of the Palestinians to self-determination should be the bases of the negotiations at the conference.

The sources said that the Soviets insist that the PLO participate in the conference as a full fledged partner. They dismiss Peres's view of the conference as a mere opening or "shoehorn" for substantive bilateral negotiations. They believe that major issues of substance regarding a settlement should also be discussed in the conference plenum.

The sources said that the Soviets insist that the "Palestinian problem" — which is "a wide-enough subject to comprehend many issues, such as borders, the fate of the territories, Lebanon" — be debated by the conference plenum rather than by a bilateral Israeli-Jordanian (or Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian) committee. The sources said that this indicates that Moscow is now adjusting its positions to those of the PLO.

But sources in the Foreign Ministry insisted that the Soviets showed a "certain softening (of their positions), a willingness to listen" and "a measure of receptivity" in the Polyakov-Murphy talks, and that definitive Soviet answers on the major outstanding issues will probably be given at the forthcoming meeting between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze. It is unclear whether the two men will meet, as originally planned, on July 15.

According to the Foreign Ministry sources, the Soviets recently signalled Jerusalem — presumably at the Polyakov-Murphy meetings — that they are interested in resuming the direct dialogue with Israel. The last direct Israeli-Soviet discussion was in Rome last April, between Peres and two Soviet officials at a meeting of the Socialist International

These sources said that the Soviet insistence on PLO participation in the conference and on an Israeli undertaking to withdraw to the 1967 frontiers were "old hat." Only after the Shultz-Shevardnadze talks would the Soviet position be clear, the sources said.

At yesterday's Cabinet meeting, Peres said that Polyakov had barely referred to the problem of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, though he had in principle posited the re-establishment of Soviet-Israeli ties. But these ties should be developed gradually and linked to progress in the peace process. The Soviets had hinted at a linkage between progress on the conference issue and a change in migration policy.

Minister Without Portfolio Yitzhaq Moda'i asked Peres why he had asked the Cabinet for permission to attend the UN Conference on Trade and Development, when in fact he had flown to Geneva to meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Peres replied that when Minister without Portfolio Moshe Arens flew to Washington two months ago he did not say he was going to meet Shultz.

Peres said of his meeting last Thursday with Mubarak that the Egyptian president expressed an interest in increasing cooperation with Israel in the fields of agriculture and solar energy. Mubarak doesn't think the Syrians want to negotiate with Israel and said he was worried by the growth of the Iran-backed Hizballah in Lebanon, Peres said.

Foreign Ministry Director-General Avraham Tamir was due to fly to Egypt last night for a 24-hour visit to help arrange a visit by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid to Israel in about a fortnight.

Shamir Discusses Amnesty Vote, Peres-Mubarak Talks

TA111056 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0805 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yosi 'Abadi and Dani Vessely; date and place not given — recorded]

[Excerpts] [Vessely] Over the weekend, when you explained your vote in favor of granting amnesty to the Jewish underground convicts in the media, you said that they had been punished and had repented. However, reference is to seven convicts who have not apologized in any way for their deeds and who have only served a small part of their sentence.

[Shamir] Well, I do not want to go into the specifics of every case. I know that the circles who allegedly set up or took part in the underground for the most part believe this was an erroneous and futile method and that any illegal organization or activity in the State of Israel should be shunned. I also said that in order to eradicate the danger of underground groups in Israel — and I consider them a danger — this chapter should be brought to an end by resorting to charity and allowing these people to go back to their homes and to normal life. Many enlightened governments have proceeded in such a way in similar situations. [passage omitted]

[Vessely] If opinions in the Cabinet are split over the amnesty issue, perhaps there is nothing wrong with differences of opinion over the international conference.

[Shamir] No, there is no comparison between the two issues because the question of amnesty to the underground convicts cannot be regarded as a matter of principle — it is not a matter of principle — whereas the international conference is a matter of principle and a first-rate political issue that could determine the fate of the state in the most immediate future. Therefore, on this issue the Cabinet must adopt a uniform policy.

['Abadi] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has announced several agreements he reached with the Egyptian president. Do you see anything new in these agreements?

[Shamir] There is nothing new in them; we have heard it all before. This is how things stand.

['Abadi] Does Mubarak's current support for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation not represent an innovation?

[Shamir] There is nothing new in that either because such support does not rule out the PLO's participation in such a conference.

['Abadi] Still, in such a conference we would be able to see who the participants are and, consequently, be able to get out of it.

[Shamir] Maybe. I do not know exactly what President Mubarak thinks. I know Egypt wants the PLO to take part in an international conference. Mubarak may think the PLO can be part of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, but to the extent that I am familiar with prevailing opinions, those of the Alignment included, Israel objects to the PLO's participation in any negotiations with us.

[Vessely] Do you think Peres' meeting with President Mubarak was worthless?

[Shamir] At this point, I am not sufficiently informed about the entire contents of the meeting to say whether it had a positive or negative value. However, as I have said, it does not represent an innovation and it does not contain anything likely to influence my position.

['Abadi] The Egyptian foreign minister may reportedly come to Israel to brief the government about the agreements that have been reached. Will he be greeted the same way you bade the vice prime minister farewell?

[Shamir] No, I will welcome Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid. I invited him when I last saw him in New York during the UN General Assembly session. I have been vexed that he has not yet come to Israel, and I will be very happy to see him here. I think that mutual visits by Egyptian and Israeli officials are definitely a positive phenomenon. [passage omitted]

AL-QABAS Reveals 'Secret' Peres Peace Initiative

JN121804 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
11 Jul 87 pp 1, 23

[Excerpts] Paris — *Al-Qabas* has revealed an important secret related to an initiative recently proposed by Shim'on Peres, Israeli deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to the U.S., French, British, and FRG officials regarding the holding of an international peace conference to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict. This secret was revealed to *Al-Qabas* by a prominent West European source conversant with the Middle East file. Shim'on Peres was concerned about keeping this initiative secret because shedding light on it would weaken his position and embarrass him inside and outside Israel.

The secret is that during his recent European tour, which included Britain, France, and the FRG, Peres carried with him a plan to hold an international conference to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict. He also sent the text of the plan to U.S. officials, particularly to Secretary of State George Shultz.

The important thing is not the text of the plan or its contents, but that Peres asked French Prime Minister Jacuqes Chirac, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to sign his plan to hold the international conference and, consequently, to support his concept to hold this conference. Peres made this request during closed meetings with these officials during his European tour late last month. He also made this request in a message to Shultz which included the text of the plan. [passage omitted]

What happened is that Thatcher, Chirac, Khol, and Shultz have rejected Peres' request and refused to sign the plan. In order to realize the reasons behind this rejection, we must acquaint ourselves with Peres' plan. Based on the prominent European source's information to *Al-Qabas*, Peres' plan includes the following major points:

1. The proposed international conference should contribute to holding direct bilateral Arab-Israeli negotiations, or should only work as an umbrella for the negotiations.

2. The international conference should not at all interfere in the Arab-Israeli negotiations, impose any solution, or even play the role of a mediator between the negotiating parties.

3. The condition for the five UN Security Council permanent members is that they should have dimplomatic relations with the parties to the negotiations. The states meant by this are of course the USSR and the PRC which do not have diplomatic relations with Israel. In addition to this condition, there is also the traditional Israeli condition demanding that the Soviet leadership leave the door open for Soviet Jews' immigration.

4. The PLO should not participate in the international conference, and the Palestinians should attend the conference and take part in the negotiations within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation through an understanding with King Husayn.

5. The five UN Security Council permanent members can contribute to the peace process by guaranteeing any agreements which would be reached separately between Israel and each Arab state.

These are the major points in Peres' plan. During his contacts with those officials, Peres also stressed that he agrees with the Egyptian and Jordanian officials that the Arab-Israeli negotiations should begin without preconditions or specific guarantees regarding any issue. Chirac, Khol, Thatcher, and Shultz have refused to sign this plan or to give it official support. In addition to this, the four officials have expressed their support for the principle of holding an international conference to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, despite the fact that they have different views on the conference and its role. [passage omitted]

Shamir, Sharon Face-off in Herut Meeting
TA130947 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Jul 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir last night successfully blocked Trade and Industry Ministry Ari'el Sharon's attempt to appoint himself as Herut's political "czar," providing last-minute drama to the party's Central Committee meeting in Jerusalem.

The last item on the agenda was the appointment of 20 party-policy committees, each to be headed by a Herut MK [Knesset member]. Sharon, chairman of the Central Committee, offered himself as candidate to head the party's "political committee."

Shamir, sitting on the podium, said: "There is no such thing as a political committee. That is the task of the Executive" (which is headed by Shamir himself).

Sharon: "I understand that there is no political committee because I am heading it."

Shamir: "Strike out the political committee and we will vote on the rest. Menahem Begin never agreed to a political committee, calling it a politburo. A political committee will lead to daily run-ins with the Executive."

Sharon retorted sarcastically: "These things are not new to me. I saw the reaction when I was appointed to the nationally crucial role of head of the party's mandate committee."

Disregarding Shamir's request, Sharon put the appointment of all 20 committees to an open vote as a block, despite howls of protest from the 2,000 delegates. After what appeared to be a majority raised its hands against him, Sharon said that he would raise the matter again at the next Central Committee meeting, scheduled for August in Samaria.

Sharon later told reporters that Shamir's objections to the appointment of a political committee were "entirely personal." "I'm not going to give in," he said.

The appointment of a party Executive, which was to have been the Central Committee's main task yesterday, was also put off because of disagreement between Shamir and the local party branches spurred on by Deputy Prime Minister David Levi. Although all agreed to expand the Executive from 120 to 250 members, Shamir refused to relinquish his right, anchored in the Herut constitution, personally to appoint the members of the Executive, which is Herut's principal governing body.

The heads of Herut branches had demanded that a specific number of seats on the Executive be allotted to them and that they be allowed to choose their delegates.

Shamir's calls for party unity were echoed by Levi, who nonetheless blasted the absence of "cooperation and dialogue" in the contacts concerning formation of an Executive.

"We must not create a facade or play games," he said, adding that "not even the fear of Labour can turn us into pawns and robots."

The original list of candidates for the Executive drawn up by MK Mikha'el Deqel at Shamir's request had "enraged everyone," said Levi. "Why I am always the Don Quixote?" he asked. "Why do party members always feel slighted, swept aside?"

The factions in Herut, which continue to be at loggerheads despite the relatively tranquil convention in April, did agree on the makeup of Herut's internal tribunal, which is to be headed by Jerusalem attorney and former envoy to South Africa, Elyahu Lankin. They also agreed on the appointment of the party's control committee and a six-member team to approve candidates for the Central Committee. The team has two representatives from each faction.

Sharon scored many points with Herut's women members who have recently organized to claim their piece of the pie. Pointing out that women make up 53 per cent of Herut's electorate, Sharon pledged to champion their demands for increased representation in the aprty institutions. He said that three women would be appointed to the internal tribunal and two to the control committee.

Sharon Urges Peres' Dismissal
TA121528 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] In a very assertive address before the Herut Central Committee convention in Jerusalem a short time ago, Minister Ari'el Sharon argued that if the foreign minister goes ahead with his efforts to promote the idea of an international conference, Peres should be fired. Here is a short excerpt of Sharon's remarks:

[Begin Sharon recording] We must stop at this point and make it crystal clear that initially an agreement must be reached among us, an agreement over substance, an agreement over the kind of peace we want. The foreign minister should be banned from proceeding with his actions, which cause great damage to the State of Israel and portray it as a country ruled by two uncoordinated governments. If he does not stop, he should be fired from the government. [applause] [end recording]

Shamir 'Attacks' Peres Proposals

TA130544 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Jul 87 pp 1, 2

[Report by political correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir last night launched one of his fiercest attacks so far on the Labour Party's proposals for an international conference, saying it was "an idea of suicide and surrender" which had undermined Arab acceptance of Israel and killed chances for peace.

"Israel will not sacrifice itself at the altar," the prime minister told delegates of the Herut Central Committee in Jerusalem. "No Arab leader ever dreamed that Israel itself would offer its neck for its destruction as a state."

"Those who have an overpowering urge to curry favour and to elicit compliments, even from hostile elements, have raised the flag of surrender," said Shamir. "What is happening lately is beyond imagination: a political camp among us gets up and tells both our friends and enemies that 'we are sick and tired of Judaea and Samaria and wish to return to our limited area,' which we have almost forgotten."

The Herut delegates applauded Shamir's statement that "as long as the Likud is in the government there will be no international conference," but were even more enthusiastic about calls to dismiss Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres from the Cabinet, voiced by Deputy Prime Minister David Levi and Trade and Industry Minister Ari'el Sharon.

Sharon said that Peres's promotion of the idea of an international conference had brought about many negative developments in the Middle East, including the rapprochements between Syria and Jordan, Syria and Iraq, the Fatah and the terrorist rejectionist organizations and had also brought about a reunification among the Eastern Front states.

Levi said that Peres's efforts had "sealed the lid on the peace process because if the Arabs conclude an agreement with an authorized representative of the State of Israel they will never agree to anything less than what was concluded."

Implicitly criticizing Shamir, Levi said that the government was "paralyzed" because it was speaking in two voices "and we have learned to live with this."

Shamir rejected the notion of an "international opening," saying that the minute the international conference convenes it will discuss the "substance of peace." He said that we are being assured that the PLO will not participate in the conference, but only the U.S. insists on the organization's acceptance of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as a precondition to its participation. "This may satisfy the U.S.," Shamir said, "but not us. We are acquainted with the character of this organization of murderers."

Shamir said that "it is true that the conference won't have veto power" because all the participants know that its outcome will be Israel's withdrawal to the 1967 borders.

Shamir said that Soviet statements on the conference imply a demand that Israel undertake in advance to withdraw to the 1967 borders.

The prime minister repeated Israel's two "just demands" on the Soviet Union: to resume normal relations and to release Soviet Jews. But, he added, Israel is not the enemy of the Soviet Union and has no interest in "participating in a crusade" against it.

Repeating his call for direct negotiations under U.S. auspices, Shamir said that if Jordan is not ready for such talks, interim agreements on such matters as water, the Dead Sea and tourism could be concluded.

The dissolution of the Knesset and the holding of new elections at this time is meant to "expose Israel to one of the most terrible deangers it has ever faced," said the prime minister. He called on all the "national parties" — meaning Tehiya, which has threatened to vote for early elections — to "unite and form a common front to avert the danger by preventing the Knesset's dissolution."

Herut's foremost task is to avoid early elections, said Shamir, but if there is no alternative he is sure that the people will elect a "national government".

Levi said that whatever Labour does, the result will not necessarily be early elections "and a hint to the wise will suffice" — alluding to the possibility that a narrow Likud-led coalition would be set up.

Peres Reacts to Shamir Remarks

TA130734 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0520 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Telephone interview with Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by commentators Mikha Friedman and Ilana Dayan — live]

[Text] [Friedman] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, good morning.

[Peres] A very good morning.

[Friedman] According to Yitzhaq Shamir, these are the plagues that will befall us if we go to an international conference, and I am listing them in ascending order: A mirage, a nightmare, surrender, a sacrificial act, suicide. So it is clear to you that while Jordan, the Soviet Union, China, and the United States may participate in an international conference, the Likud will not. What is the Alignment doing in this government?

[Peres] First of all, it is basing everything on a short memory. There was an international conference in the past, and I did not hear that Israel committed suicide. We met with the Russians and the Americans in Geneva, and following that conference, negotiations which ended in a peace agreement were held with Egypt. Second, to be sacrificed on the altar is terrible, but to sacrifice the State of Israel by having it turned into a binational country is also a great danger. Mr Shamir also has to provide an

answer to that question. I do not agree with the entire tone that permeated the Herut convention. Soon they will start saying we should pay obeisance to the war in Lebanon, as though peace were a sin. What sin is it? The government never made a decision to stop dealing with the international conference. On the contrary, there is a Cabinet decision, whose validity has not expired, in favor of an international conference, and it was made under Mr Menahem Begin's government. Therefore, these are genuine problems. Let the Likud members not try to turn peace into a sin. Zionism has always aspired to peace. We have never relied on the sword and wars alone. There is no sin in this, no matter what Ari'el Sharon says.

[Dayan] Ari'el Sharon is calling for action. He is saying that if you continue with your political efforts...

[Peres, interrupting] He certainly is calling for action. However, I would like to remind you that I was not given my mandate by Ari'el Sharon.

[Dayan] Let us just recall that he said: to dismiss.

[Peres] Yes, but he is neither the one who dismisses nor the one who appoints. I was not given my mandate by him.

[Friedman] But Mr Shamir does have the right.

[Peres] Excuse me, but we are sitting in a government with a 50-50 split, and it has rules, laws, and procedures. It does not allow for arbitrary moves on anyone's part.

[Friedman] It looks like Sharon may be trying to settle accounts with you; you tried to dismiss him twice when you were prime minister.

[Peres] I am not settling any accounts with anyone; I am discussing the crux of the matter, and I repeat that I am not prepared to lower the level of a serious argument to personal matters. I am not terrorized by this, nor does it concern me. What really does worry me is the future of Israel, the future of peace, and the future of our children.

[Dayan] The question is whether this concern can now be translated into practical politics. What do you do when you see what the other half of the government thinks?

[Peres] It is my opinion that it must be translated correctly. That also means avoiding making mistakes. For instance, disbanding the government might very well lead to a halt to the peace process, to renewed settlement in the territories, to many other things. When viewing the situation one must take the alternatives into account. We are not taking part in some sort of theatrical show in which one person is trying to make an impression on another.

[Friedman] Yes, so what in fact...

[Peres, interrupting] One cannot say: You are splitting the nation, and therefore we want to dismiss you. What is this idea that half the government should stand up and tell the other half: If you do not accept my views you are splitting the nation. We must try to find a common, honorable path, not in this style and not in this manner. What is this? Do we have some massive majority facing a tiny majority here? Half the nation is facing the other half of the nation. I was trying to find a version that would enable everyone to live together despite the differences of opinion, without resorting to threats and dismissals. Mr Ari'el Sharon has a lot to reflect upon, in the field of economics as well. For instance, he thought that if we did not implement dollarization, the economy would go down the drain. It is only human to look back and reconsider.

[Dayan] Mr Peres, let us now deal with the essence of the matter: the political contacts that you are conducting and that you conducted in Geneva last week, and the contacts between the Soviets and the Americans over the international conference. We hear — and it is no coincidence that this is coming from the direction of the Prime Minister's Office — that the Soviets presented a hard line in those talks.

[Peres] The Soviet position certainly was tougher than that of the Americans, but from the reports I have received it transpires that the Soviets have actually softened their line. Under no circumstances am I ready to accept the Soviet position at this stage. But in Geneva we already saw that the Soviets came to the conference despite what they had said; the conference served its purpose, and nothing happened to Israel. One cannot constantly describe imaginary genies coming out of nonexistent bottles.

[Dayan] By the way, are the Soviets coming to Israel? The rumors that were prevalent in Jerusalem yesterday spoke of a consular delegation — the famous consular delegation — that had been scheduled to arrive today or tomorrow.

[Peres] The delegation will come. It is a consular delegation. We will not inflate its importance and dimensions. I do not want to make it out to be what it is not. There is no need to lose our heads.

[Friedman] In other words, the major, important contacts will not actually involve that delegation, but much higher levels in the Soviet top ranks?

[Peres] Yes, I believe so. We have really burning issues — first and foremost, the fate of Soviet Jewry. One cannot say no to everything. We have genuine interests in holding contacts with the Russians, on the future and fate of Soviet Jewry as well.

Peres Working for Better Ties With SFRY, Hungary

TA120915 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 12 Jul 87 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has been using diplomatic channels in trying to bring about the establishment of diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia. He sent a political message to the Yugoslav president via Edgar Bronfman, the president of the World Jewish Congress, who is leaving for Belgrade.

Peres held a brief conversation with the president of Yugoslavia during his visit to Geneva last week. Yugoslavia has been main-

taining a certain distance from Israel and has so far refrained from taking any initiative toward a political thaw.

Progress has also been made in diplomatic contacts with Hungary in anticipation of the possibility of exchanging interest representatives.

Chinese Scientists Pay 'Clandestine' Visit

TA120743 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Jul 87 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] A group of PRC scientists made a clandestine visit to Israel approximately a week ago. The group was composed of Chinese recipients of U.S. fellowships. They met with Israeli academics and were escorted by members of the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem officials last night voiced the conclusion that the group's visit indicates a change, albeit small, in the attitude of the Government in Beijing toward Israel. They noted that the Chinese group is known for its close ties with government leaders and undoubtedly received permission to visit Israel.

Pope To Invite Ambassador To 'Allay Tension'

TA121821 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Jul 87 p 1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] A leading figure of the Catholic Church in the Vatican conferred with Israel's Ambassador in Rome Mordekhay Drori last week.

The ambassador will be invited to a meeting with the pope within the next few months out of the Vatican's desire to reconcile itself with Israel and allay the tension following Austrian President Kurt Waldheim's audience with the Holy See.

General Strike Ends; Further Action Possible

TA130849 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Jul 87 p 1

[Report by Jeff Black and Asher Wallfish]

[Text] Despite claims of success, yesterday's 24-hour strike in the public sector failed to hide divisions within the Histadrut Trade Union Department. Trade union leaders reported that about 450,000 workers obeyed the strike call, closing down government offices and agencies, local authorities, national institutions and the radio, television and postal services among others.

Sharp differences of opinion emerged within the Histadrut headquarters in Tel Aviv following a request early in the day by Finance Minister Moshe Nisim to Histadrut Secretary-General Yisra'el Qeysar to resume the stalled negotiations over public sector wages.

Hayim Haberfeld, the Trade Union Department head, told reporters yesterday that the department's campaign headquarters had agreed to this request. It had decided to order a return to work until after the next round of talks which, he said, will probably take place tomorrow.

But the decision angered many members of the Civil Service and the Administrative Workers' Unions. The unions' leaders, Reu'ven Ben-'Ami and Moshe Bet-Dagan, issued a statement last night saying that they had only agreed following a Haberfeld promise that their unions' demands will form the basis of the next round of talks.

However, government hospital workers and other Civil Service Union members in the court system, the Income Tax Department and the Postal Service are still not satisfied. These workers are due to meet this morning to decide whether to continue striking.

Ben-'Ami said last night that he thought these workers would agree to return to work. He pointed out that his union's campaign headquarters yesterday authorized him to decide on the union's next steps.

Haberfeld yesterday acknowledged that there was growing pressure from some unions to continue strike action, but he said that most of the unions feel that serious negotiations must be given a chance. Until now, said Haberfeld, Nisim has offered the unions absolutely nothing. If there is no change in the Treasury's position, Haberfeld warned, the Histadrut will launch a campaign much fiercer than yesterday's warning strike.

Commenting on the strike, Deputy Prime Minister Peres said that two years ago the country worked its way out of the severe economic crisis and very high inflation thanks to a dialogue between the government which he headed and the employers. Speaking to a meeting of Labour Party activists in the Histadrut's Mitchell Auditorium in Jerusalem last night, Peres said that the government, the Histadrut and the employers should agree on a "programme of national growth." He said he doubted whether the present government could do so.

Nisim told the weekly Cabinet meeting yesterday that the Treasury was ready to talk about improving the lot of pensioners, who have suffered greatly from erosion of their pensions; about increases for civil servants in the lower-wage brackets; and about steps to maintain the real value of all wages.

At the same time, Nisim said he could not accept the Histadrut's arguments about the alleged erosion in the real value of wages in the civil service. Across-the-board increases for all civil servants were out of the question, Nisim said.

Rabin, Nisim To Submit Plan to 'Scrap' Lavi

TA130507 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Text] The ministers of finance and defense have agreed on a joint proposal to scrap the Lavi figher project; they have informed Prime Minister Shamir that they intend to submit it to the Cabinet soon. They told the prime minister that there was no way

the defense budget could be increased, and without extra funds the project could not be continued. Shamir said he still wanted to consider other alternatives.

Labor Leaders Urging Withdrawal From Government

TA121027 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
12 Jul 87 pp A1, 2

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[Excerpt] There is a feeling of mounting urgency among the Labor Party leadership to withdraw from the Cabinet and join the opposition, even if it is clear that there is no chance of holding early elections.

Most senior Labor Party personalities have reached the conclusion that the party must make a decision on its future as part of the national unity government — which they maintain has become a national freeze government — within 1 or 2 weeks.

These figures, who support immediate secession from the government, maintain it is inconceivable that the Alignment should lend its hand to a government that comes out with a resounding no to the peace process.

Words to that effect were also brought to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's attention during his latest tete-a-tete with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres a few days ago. Peres protested the absence of any progress on peace and made it plain that the Alignment would have to leave and join the opposition. Shamir reacted by telling Shim'on Peres that it is unthinkable that the Likud would change its stand because of the Alignment's threats of withdrawal.

The view Shamir holds, and the one expressed in the latest meeting of Likud ministers in his residence in Jerusalem, is that despite the fact that the partnership with the Alignment is becoming more and more difficult, the Cabinet has not yet reached the breaking point and it is possible to continue the partnership, if the Alignment should so desire.

The prime minister believes that even if the Alignment leaves the government early elections should not be called. If the Alignment really acts on its threat, Shamir believes every effort should be made to maintain a narrow-based, Likud-led government.

Although no serious contacts have as yet been held with the smaller parties on their joining a narrow-based government under the Likud's leadership, the Likud is convinced there would be no problem setting up such a Cabinet. With the help of the religious parties, Knesset Members [MK's] Hurvitz and Abu-Hatzera, the Likud will be able to form a government that would enjoy a 60-seat base in the Knesset, the 61st being MK Kahane, who would support it from outside. Shamir is hoping to obtain the support of at least one more MK, Zaydan 'Atshah (Shinuy), who has recently been estranged from his party. [passage omitted]

Shinuy Joins No-Confidence Motion on Shamir Vote

TA121344 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1330 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Shinuy has joined other Knesset factions in the motion of no confidence in the government over Yitzhaq Shamir's vote in favor of granting amnesty to the Jewish underground convicts. This is Shinuy's first no-confidence motion since it left the government. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that the prime minister's vote will also be discussed by the Ministerial Committee on Regulations in view of the legal differences that emerged over this issue in today's Cabinet session.

Two Islamic Jihad Members Given Life Sentences

TA121346 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1330 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Two Islamic Jihad members, convicted of murdering two Israelis from Ashqelon and Abu Ghaush last summer and fall in the Gaza Strip, have been sentenced to life imprisonment. Two of the three judges of the Gaza military court said that, in their opinion, the gravity of the crimes called for sentencing the two to death, but that the prosecution's demand to sentence them to life was the norm in Israel. Therefore, the court sentenced the two to life in prison.

King, Queen Leave for UK on 'Private Visit'

JN091206 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 9 Jul 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur departed Amman at noon today on a several-day, private visit to the United Kingdom. Their majesties will attend His Highness Prince Faysal ibn al-Husayn's graduation ceremony from one of the flight colleges in Wales. His Majesty King Husayn will inaugurate an international air exhibition at the British Royal Air Force's Farnborough base. His majesty will be the first Arab or foreign head of state to inaugurate this famous air exhibition, which is held every 2 years.Twenty-seven countries, including Jordan, will participate in it. The nation will be represented by the Royal Hawks Team.

During his visit to the United Kingdom, his majesty will hold talks with British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher and British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe on developments in the Middle East, the latest international efforts to convene an international peace conference, and bilateral relations.

Their majesties were seen off at Amman Airport by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Her Highness Princess Tharwat, and His Highness Prince Ghazi ibn Muhammad. Also seeing their majesties off were the prime minister, the Senate president, the court minister, the chief chamberlain, the ministers, the chief of the royal household, the Royal Hashemite Court secretary general, a number of civil and military officials, and the British ambassador to Amman and his wife.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan was sworn in as regent before His Majesty King Husayn and in the presence of the ministers, to act during his majesty's absence abroad.

His Majesty King Husayn is accompanied by their Highnesses Prince 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn, Princesses Zayn and 'A'ishah, and Prince Talal ibn Muhammad. This is in addition to Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and Staff Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, Armed Forces commander in chief.

Prime Minister Departs for UK

JN121517 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i departed for London today to join His Majesty King Husayn in tomorrow's talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. These talks will cover the Middle East situation and bilateral relations. The prime minister was seen off by the deputy prime minister and a number of ministers.

Minister Denies Reports on Syria-Iraq Summit

JN121806 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1730 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Jordanian Information Minister Muhammad al-Khatib today denied reports from Jerusalem concerning a reconciliation meeting to take place this month between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. This would be achieved through King Husayn's mediation efforts.

Palestinian sources in Jerusalem report that the Jordanian king is working to convene an official meeting between Saddam Husayn and Hafiz al-Asad with the intention of paving the way for an Arab summit and establishing peace in the Gulf.

Arab League's Secretary General Arrives 11 Jul

JN111943 Amman Television Service in English
1900 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] The secretary general of the Arab League, Mr Chedli Klibi,arrived in Amman this evening on a 2-day visit to Jordan. He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and other senior officials.

In an airport statement to the Jordan News Agency, PETRA, Mr Klibi praised the efforts of his majesty the king in his attempt to unify the Arab position and in his endeavors to convene an international Middle East peace conference. The secretary general added that his talks with Jordanian officials would deal with the mission of the seven-member Arab League delegation in finding ways to end the Gulf war between Iraq and Iran.

Later, Mr Al-Masri hosted a dinner in honor of the guest.

AL-SHIRA' Claims Micro-Transmitter Found on Waite

NC111357 Paris AFP in English 1349 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Beirut, July 11 (AFP) — Terry Waite, the Anglican envoy who went missing here during a mission to win the release of Western hostages last January, was taken hostage after a micro-transmitter was found concealed in his hair, the Lebanese weekly *Al-Shira'* said Saturday.

In its issue appearing Monday, the weekly, which was the first to report that Washington had sold arms to Iran, said a Soviet agent told the Iranians that the micro-transmitter was similar to those used by U.S. pilots of the Sixth Fleet.

The device was allegedly found in Mr Waite's hair during a body search.

A Kuwaiti daily reported last week that Mr Waite had died of natural causes, but Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie dismissed the reports as "rumors."

Meanwhile, the pro-Christian *Al-Nahar al-'Arabi wa al-Duwali*, a weekly, said in its upcoming issue that "several hostages whose execution had been announced in 1985 are still alive."

It said it was quoting reports received by Lebanese parties, but provided no further details.

The Islamic Jihad organization announced in October 1985 the execution of the U.S. hostage William Buckley, said to be the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency station chief in Beirut, and, in March 1986, that of the French researcher Michel Seurat.

Junblatt's Aides Reportedly Sold Waite to Hizballah

NC130543 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0527 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Text] The Syrian forces last night arrested five persons loyal to Minister Walid Junblatt, including a member of the Internal Security Forces. According to a Syrian official in the Beau Rivage [hotel in West Beirut], they were detained on charges of collaborating with the Israeli enemy. Other reports say they were arrested for taking part, with the Jamal Kararah group, in causing explosions in West Beirwt.

According to information leaked by the Syrians, persons close to Minister Junblatt sold Anglican envoy Terry Waite to Hizballah for $200,000. Abu Haytham and a Junblatt associate received the money while Waite was at the clinic of former minister 'Adnan Muruwwah.

Organization Claims Holding Waite, Glass

NC121050 Paris AFP in English 1037 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Beirut, July 12 (AFP) — The Organisation for Truth Against Falsehood (OTAF) on Sunday said it was holding Terry Waite, the missing envoy of the Anglican Church, U.S. journalist Charles Glass and a third unidentified Western hostage.

The claim was made in an Arabic-language statement that was slipped under the door of the office of a Western news agency correspondent in Riyaq, in the eastern Al-Biqa' valley.

The statement said the three would be put on trial.

It was the first time a group had claimed it was holding Mr. Waite, who disappeared January 20 in mostly-Moslem West Beirut where he was negotiating the release of Westerners kidnapped in Lebanon.

On February 8, the Organisation for Revolutionary Justice accused Mr. Waite of being a spy. It said he was preparing a military plot against pro-Iranian fundamentalists in Lebanon on behalf of the United States, Israel and France.

That statement was seen by observers as an indirect claim of responsibility for Mr. Waite's abduction.

The Beirut weekly *Al-Shira'*, which had revealed U.S. arms sales to Iran, said in a report to be published on Monday that Mr. Waite was abducted when a micro-transmitter was found concealed under his hair.

The OTAF on July 3 claimed it was holding Mr. Glass but failed to give any proof. In another message last Thursday it warned that Mr. Glass would be executed within 48 hours if the United States failed to pay a 10-million dollar ransom to the people of Lebanon and did not halt its operations in the Gulf.

In Sunday's statement, the OTAF denounced "imperialism and especially the families of the hostages" for not having heeded the ransom call.

Another self-proclaimed group, the Organisation for the Defense of Free Peoples (ODPF), released a videocassette last Tuesday in which Mr. Glass said he was a spy for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. It later attacked the OTAF claim issued on Thursday and accused the group of working on behalf of "intelligence services that want to exploit the detention of the spy Glass."

Mr. Glass, a former employee of ABC news, was abducted June 17 in a Shi'ite Moslem neighborhood just south of Beirut.

Ransom Demand Made for Kidnapped West Germans

LD131541 Hamburg DPA in German 1451 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Excerpts] Beirut (DPA) — According to a Lebanese newspaper report, a ransom of DM30 million has been demanded for the release of the two German citizens Rudolf Cordes and Alfred Schmidt, who were kidnapped in Beirut. [passage omitted] According to information today, the Federal Government does not know of such ransom demands.

It is reported from security circles in Beirut that there have been negotiations between the kidnappers and the Federal Republic's Embassy in Beirut. The reports say the kidnappers have demanded DM2 million for letters from Cordes and Schmidt to their families, including photos of the two Germans. No con-

firmation of this has so far been received from the Federal Republic's Embassy. [passage omitted]

KUNA Says All Hostages Held in South Beirut 'Jail'

LD111608 Kuwait KUNA in English 1426 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Beirut, July 11 (KUNA) — All foreign hostages in Lebanon are currently detained in the southern suburb of Beirut by only one organization, press reports here Saturday disclosed.

Weekly magazine *Al-Kifah al-'Arabi* said that all foreigners kidnapped in Western Beirut in the past couple of years have been moved to "a jail" in south Beirut.

The magazine, quoting an unidentified senior political source, added that contrary to what is being claimed by various underground organizations, only one party is holding them but did not name it.

The Syrian troops that were deployed in West Beirut last February to end a bloody feudal fighting between local militias did not yet enter the southern suburb, but they are surrounding it from all sides except the eastern side where they face Christian militias.

The weekly quoted the sources as saying that all hostages are detained in Beirut and no-one was moved outside Lebanon.

It said that the organization capturing the hostages preferred to keep them in Beirut to make use of them as a pressure card.

Syria, Iran Reportedly To Discuss French Hostages

NC101900 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] The Lebanese weekly magazine *Al-Shira'* has disclosed that exchanges which may lead to the release of six French hostages in Lebanon are currently underway between Syria and Iran. According to *Al-Shira'*, French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac asked the Syrians to hold these negotiations. The magazine says President Hafiz al-Asad has instructed his foreign minister, who visited Tehran recently, to start talks on this issue.

Syria Will Not Use Force to Free Foreign Hostages

JN120949 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
10 Jul 87, p 1

[Text] *Al-Ittihad* has learned from a high-ranking Lebanese political figure who participated in the expanded [Lebanese] Islamic Grouping's talks in Damascus that the Syrian leadership will not resort to military means to bring about the release of the 25 foreign hostages held captive in Lebanon. This figure told *Al-Ittihad* that during the talks the grouping held in Damascus with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and his Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, he concluded that Washington had asked Damascus, through U.S. special envoy Vernon Walters, to launch mediation efforts with Tehran in order to tackle the hostages' issue peacefully for fear that the hostages' lives may be endangered if the military option were to be adopted.

Syrians Give U.S. Videotape of Sabri al-Banna

NC131211 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Text] Western diplomatic sources in Beirut have told the Voice of Lebanon that Syrian security authorities have given U.S. security officials a videotape recording of the departure of Palestinian official Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] and his group from Damascus to the Al-Biqa' region about 1 month ago. This was one of the developments making a recent Syrian-U.S. rapprochement possible, they said.

These sources add that the videotape clearly shows the faces of Abu Nidal and 500 of his men, allowing U.S. intelligence to identify them and pass their pictures on to U.S. airports and friendly and allied countries and thus thwart any terrorist operation the Abu Nidal group might attempt.

The same sources point out that Syria's delivering the videotape was a factor leading U.S. officials to make their new moves toward Damascus. These U.S. officials have noted their satisfaction with Syria's deportation of Abu Nidal.

At the same time, Abu Nidal's move to Al-Biqa' worries the Americans, because this area represents an extension of Damascus in terms of security, in view of the Syrian forces' deployment there. The sources revealed that Abu Nidal and his group moved 1 week ago to Tripoli [Lebanon], where he has set up a base and deployed gunmen in the inner quarters and the [Palestinian] camps' vicinity. This has disturbed the people of Tripoli, who have contacted the commander of the Syrian Forces in the north and the official in charge of Syrian intelligence. These officials have promised to monitor Abu Nidal's movements and control him as much as possible. The sources believe the Syrians have been embarrassed by this development.

Al-Jumayyil Statement on Karami Assassination

NC102042 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1915 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] Only 48 hours before the 40-day anniversary of Prime Minister Rashid Karami's death, President al-Jumayyil has affirmed that those who masterminded the assassination of this great man were actually trying to strike at the hopes of reform he stood for and the values needed for the mere survival of the homeland and its future.

Al-Jumayyil said: It is not only a political stand, but a national duty to punish those who planned the assassination, those who perpetrated it, and anyone who fails to perform his duties [in this regard].

Al-Jumayyil added: This country is still suffering from the disaster of Karami's death, the loss of one of its key leaders. Karami's assassination was meant to be a blow to the hopes of revival, which he personified. The assassins succeeded in killing

Karami; let us prevent them from burying what he lived and died for. We have a duty to track down the perpetrators of this crime and anyone who might have helped them, either by planning the deed or failing to stop it. We must also defend the unity of Lebanon, a unity whose significance was the target of the assassination. There is only one way to achieve this task, without quarreling over the means, the governments, or the fronts.

Our country is at a watershed, domestically and regionally, Al-Jumayyil continued. We are also facing an atrocious economic crisis. Our only means of salvation is to cling together in one front, an all-Lebanese front, and behind one government, an all-Lebanon Government. The only path open is that of national reconciliation, the revival of the power of the state and the cultural role of Lebanon. Let the memory of the great departed leader usher in the beginning of salvation.

Leaders Speak on 40-Day Memorial for Karami

Syria's Al-Ahmar Renews Pledge

NC121537 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0752 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Speech by 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Syrian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, at a ceremony held at the International Fairgrounds in Tripoli on 12 July to commemorate the passage of 40 days since the assassination of Prime Minister Rashid Karami — live]

[Excerpts] Brothers of struggling Tripoli, brother Lebanese, honorable audience: I have come to you from Damascus [applause], the beating heart of Arabism, to convey to you and the people of Lebanon those feelings of extreme grief and anger that engulfed our Syrian Arab region after the abominable crime. [applause] I would like to to express our deep feeling regarding the grievous misfortune that hit Lebanon and Syria and all the Arab strugglers [applause] with the loss of a prominent leader, martyred Prime Minister Rashid Karami [applause], the righteous son of this city and a distinguished Lebanese Arab leader. [applause] [passage omitted]

Struggling Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, the leader of our people and nation [applause], has given me the honor of coming here today to convey to you these sentiments and feelings and to reaffirm that Arab Syria, as always, is with you, heart to heart and hand in hand. Syria stands with the distressed Karami family, with bereaved Tripoli [applause], and with all the Lebanese nationalists in their persistent struggle to foil this new plot, which represents an abominable political crime in terms of its dimensions and goals. This plot was aimed at sowing the seeds of despair in the hearts of the Lebanese people to destroy their hopes for salvation.

We regard all the forces and people concealing the criminals, attempting to absorb the angry popular reactions by delaying and extending the investigation, as partners in and beneficiaries of the crime. The criminal assassination of Karami should be dealt with not as an ordinary incident that will be forgotten with time, but as a political crime committed by the advocates of division, the agents of Israel, to undermine the unity of Lebanon and close the door to the people's national accord. Exposing those who planned and executed this crime is a political matter that should assume priority over any future political action. [applause]

The increased national political activity since his death clearly indicates a determination to confront this plot and its tools at home and abroad, to defend Lebanon's unity, frustrate all partitionist attempts, and liberate the remaining Lebanese territory from Israeli occupation. [passage omitted]

We are fully confident that Lebanon will not kneel as long as there remain strugglers, such as Rashid Karami, who sacrifice their lives [applause]; as long as its people believe in its Arabism; and as long as its twin sister Syria is prepared to sacrifice [applause] everything it has to save the common fate that Rashid Karami sacrificed his life to save. [applause] [passage omitted]

Israel's tools and agents in Lebanon and the area had sought, by assassinating the departed leader, to undermine the national and pan-Arab spirit of the Lebanese people. These are the same people who destroyed the hopes of the United States, Zionism, and the agents in the Arab arena when they dealt a deadly blow to the Camp David process by aborting the 17 May agreement [applause] and blocked any possibility of applying this process and its results in the Arab arena. These are the same people who launched the national resistance, the noblest phenomenon in contemporary Arab history, and with the support of Syria, forced the Zionist occupation forces to withdraw from most of the Lebanese territories they invaded in 1982. They reminded them of the lesson they had received in the glorious October War and affirmed their determination to continue the struggle and escalate the resistance operations until the Zionist occupation forces and their agents withdraw from the last inch of occupied land in resisting and valiant southern Lebanon. [applause] [passage omitted] We are convinced that Rashid Karami did not spill his blood for naught [applause] and that the Lebanese and Arab strugglers will foil the plot, defeat its instruments, and avenge him and his purity. The plotters, both the planners and executers, will not escape punishment. [applause]

Brother Lebanese, we in Syria renew our pledge to support Lebanon's march and do our best to unite and make impregnable the national rank in the face of the Israeli agents' onslaughts. This we will do on the basis of the immortal truth often reiterated by Rashid Karami: Syria and Lebanon are twin countries with a common interest and a common fate. [applause] [passage omitted]

Birri Outlines Proposals

NC122036 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0946 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Speech by Nabih Birri, Amal Movement leader and minister of state for the south and reconstruction affairs, at a ceremony held at the International Fairgrounds in Tripoli on 12 July to commemorate the passage of 40 days since the assassination of the late Prime Minister Rashid Karami — live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Brothers, the assassination of Prime Minister Karami is not just one of many cases, the investigation of which have produced no results. This assassination has added

a dangerous new reality to Lebanese developments. [passage omitted]

It was the Lebanese Forces that carried out the assassination. It is not important if the tool was a corporal, sergeant, or officer. What matters is that this political party is the export center of aggression against Lebanon's unity and Arabism. [passage omitted]

As a basic and necessary precondition for the resumption of a dialogue, the Lebanese Forces must be punished politically. No one must delude himself and think it is possible to overstep the assassination of Karami. The assassination is a national case, and the attack is equal to an aggression. Therefore, it is necessary to remove the effects of this aggression before embarking on any political discussion. [passage omitted]

What is required and how must we respond? In my opinion, the response should be just as it was in 1983 — with our unity, with the unity of all the forces which believe in the Arabism, unity, liberation, and fairness of Lebanon. It is time everyone realizes it is impossible to achieve unity in Lebanon between two projects, one Arab and the other Israeli. We must close ranks with fraternal Syria [applause] under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. [applause]

First, this occasion should be regarded as a national conference from which a broad national front should emerge to work for the liberation, unity, and justice of Lebanon. [applause]

Second, the unification and liberation front must place all its military and political capabilities at the disposal of the broad national front and prepare for a military solution [applause]. We do not engage in one-upmanship, nor do we exaggerate. We say the time has come to realize it is impossible to unite between two projects, one of which is Israeli. This is impossible. Therefore, we must work peacefully by all means. When we despair, it becomes especially necessary. As I said, the unification and liberation front must place all its military and political capabilities at the disposal of the broad national front to prepare for a military solution if the broad national front fails in its program.

Third, the front's leadership must act on the various Lebanese, Arab, and international levels, asking Syria to complete the deployment of its forces in a manner that would prevent the division of Lebanon, foster Lebanese reconciliation, and help all displaced peoples return to their homes. [applause]

Any delay in carrying out this plan lays a great responsibility on us and permits the establishment of another border strip, inside the country this time. If resistance to the occupation in the first border strip has so far been a southern or an Islamic responsibility, resistance to the new project is the responsibility of everyone, particularly the nationalist Christians and their young leaders. [applause]

The Lebanese pound is the last real [word indistinct] after the assassination of Rashid Karami. Amin al-Jumayyil must play a large role here. In order to resist this plan — and I beg forgiveness from Prime Minister al-Huss — I say it is no longer permissible to keep silent at all. He has been working day and night to stop this bleeding. I submit that the governor of the Bank of Lebanon be required to do the following:

1. Declare an economic state of emergency and prevent foreign currency dealings, except for certain permitted imports. [applause]

2. Ban imports, except with prior permission. [passage omitted]

3. Encourage credit and imports for developing industry and agriculture, and encourage exports to improve foreign currency revenues.

4. Abolish the Lebanese Financial Company [Al-Sharikah al-Maliyah al-Lubnaniyah] [applause] because this stockbroker firm works for the benefit of the Lebanese Forces and the regime.

Brothers, it is important to maintain the free economic system, but what is even more important is Lebanon's survival. We are not calling for the elimination of the free economic system, but for a state of emergency for a limited period. I think that if we adopt this plan, the dollar rate against the Lebanese pound will drop to less than 50 Lebanese pounds. [applause] [passage omitted]

Junblatt Addresses Ceremony

NC130815 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1012 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Speech by PSP leader Walid Junblatt at a ceremony held at the International Fairgrounds in Tripoli to commemorate the passage of 40 days since the assassination of Prime Minister Rashid Karami — live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The best revenge for this crime against the homeland, Arabism, and Islam lies in unifying the political concept in Lebanon and the Arab world to confront the partitionist plot. This plot reached a dangerous stage with the assassination of Rashid Karami. It heralds the proclamation of an isolationist-Zionist-Phalangist entity on Lebanese soil. [applause] Therefore, we must unite through a definite and explicit national charter that will bind us in word and deed to respond quickly in all areas and at all levels to preserve the Arab and Islamic cause in Lebanon. Any person or group forsaking this charter must be rejected, punished, and executed if necessary. [applause]

While the homeland is collapsing in the face of Phalangist-Israeli-U.S. isolation, we cannot accept hesitation or attempts to seek shelter behind a legitimate authority that has finally fallen, after being propped up by Israeli weapons and existing through deception and self-perpetuation. We declare that Lebanon's unity is not in itself a sacred mission, as we are being told by some upstart politicians who have no historical roots and are closely linked with intelligence services and embassies. Lebanon's unity is a sacred mission only if it finally ensures our country's affiliation with the Arab homeland and if it establishes a clear, scientific, political, and economic alignment with Syria [applause] that will lead us out of the Israeli-isolationist-U.S. circle.

We also declare that there is no value in what is termed policy if citizens do not have equal rights and duties. [applause] As for independence, damn the independence created by the Sykes-Picot Treaty [applause], with borders drawn up by bishops and patriarchs and their counterparts in the Islamic ranks who wore turbans and fezzes [applause] and who did not swing on the gallows with their spy colleagues on 6 May. [passage omitted]

We are watching. We reiterate our warning to the so-called legitimate Parliament not to pass laws giving the Lebanese Army more tools of death and destruction. We have enough embassies abroad whose primary task is to collect millions of dollars and aid for the gang of 'Awn [Army commander] and Qassis [head of Lebanese Army Intelligence]. We have had enough of a separate account in the Central Bank for Juniyah, robbing the people daily on behalf of the tyrant, criminals, and killers. [applause]

Let there be overall national civilian administration [applause] from Tripoli to 'Akkar, Al-Biqa', Beirut, Sidon, Tyre, the Mountain, and the Iqlim to confront the economic and social nightmare. [applause] [passage omitted]

O Christians of Lebanon, now that the shah of Ba'abda has fallen into the dustbin of history, the time has come for you to take a courageous, historic stand and expel from your ranks that Ja'ja'ite goat [applause] and free your fate from the yoke of imperialism and the chains of [word indistinct], emerging from the dark, spiteful, and corrupt cellars of Al-Kaslik into the light of justice, light, and tolerance [applause]. [passage omitted]

Al-Jumayyil, Sham'un Discuss Domestic Situation

NC111130 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Excerpts] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and former President Camille Sham'un discussed the domestic security and political situation at the presidential palace in Bikfayya this morning.

In a statement following the 30-minute meeting, Sham'un blamed acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss for the Lebanese currency's decline against other currencies. The former president urged Al-Huss to call on the Cabinet ministers to meet and to tackle the financial and economic problems. [passage omitted]

Sham'un said he had learned of the statement which U.S. envoy Vernon Walters made in Damascus that focused upon the need to maintain Lebanon's sovereignty and the safety of its constitutional institutions.

Asked whether he would take any step to break the present deadlock, Sham'un said: We are waiting for acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss to call a meeting to discuss the issues in question. Otherwise, the country will head toward bankruptcy. It is inconceivable that a prime minister, who senses the burden of his responsibility, is not devoting all of his time to remedying the situation or calling for a Cabinet meeting to adopt possible resolutions for salvation.

Al-Huss Responds to Sham'un

NC111419 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has stated that whoever wants, as we do, a government that meets, should work to remove the reasons for the boycott and the resignation of the late prime minister.

Responding to a question by NNA this afternoon on his opinion of former President Camille Sham'un's statement following his meeting with the president of the Republic, which included a personal attack on Al-Huss, the prime minister said: I regret to say that President Sham'un's remarks in response to my statement yesterday are inaccurate, if not misleading. If President Sham'un is ready to agree to what is needed to deal with the crisis, we call on him to accept the decisions made at the ministerial meeting held in Mansur Palace [the Chamber of Deputies]; that is, to revive previous Cabinet decisions. It should be recalled that President Sham'un had absolved himself of these decisions following the Ministerial Committee meeting in the Chamber of Deputies' building.

Fadlallah: 'Economic Crisis' 'War' Against Muslims

LD110913 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Beirut, July 11, IRNA — Al-'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah described Lebanon's current economic crisis as a new war against Lebanese Muslims which has been launched once the military actions and shelling of the people yielded no result.

In his Friday prayers sermon to a large number of worshipers gathered at Imam Reza (A.S.) mosque here, he said that the plot to depreciate the Lebanese lira [currency as received] has pushed prices of basic commodities up and aggravated the poverty of Lebanese masses.

Al-'Allamah Fadlallah called on the people to resist the new plot.

Al-'Allamah Fadlallah also touched on the issue of the resumption of war of camps and said that the people must be ready for a massive struggle against the Zionist regime and avoid any deviated move.

Meanwhile Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban leader of the Islamic Tawhid Movement addressing the Friday prayer congregation at the north Lebanese city of Tripoli called for Islamic unity.

The current problems, he added will not be solved through formation of political fronts and the only solution is real Islamic unity with the objective of ceaseless campaign against the Zionist regime.

The experience of the Islamic revolution of Iran, he said, has showed that faith and resistance are the only successful means for getting rid of the oppressors.

Outlines Stance on Kidnappings

PM101733 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 10 Jul 87 p 15

[Interview with Lebanese Islamic "scholar" Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by Thurayya 'Asi in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] ['Asi] After the kidnapping of former speaker 'Usayran's son and the U.S. journalist, former speaker 'Usayran himself quickly contacted you, which led one to believe that the Islamic state of affairs [al-halah al-Islamiyah] was behind the kidnapping. Was Hizballah really behind that operation and how do you explain the release of 'Ali 'Usayran and not his American companion?

[Fadlallah] Speaker 'Usayran contacted all the influential circles in the region. The fundamentalist trends are always the target of direct and indirect accusations in such cases. Whenever such an incident occurs charges are made against these trends and their symbols. We have rejected and we will always reject this method of political action. We have said hundreds of times, in Friday sermons and political statements, and I have said, that we condemn the kidnapping of innocent people of any affiliation, Lebanese and non-Lebanese. We therefore reject what is being said about this matter and see it as a collection of irresponsible words devoid of any truth, and as a form of hostile propaganda to blemish the bright picture of the Islamic state of affairs and its firm political stands against imperialism and Zionism. We have frequently said that the kidnapping of foreigners is just the same as the kidnapping of Lebanese, reflecting a method of political action in the circles of local, regional, and international intelligence conflicts. However, those who know what is really going on and who have a backstage approach to these matters do not want to admit this fact because they want to blow more than just a little smoke in the faces of the political trends opposed to their policies and designs. They cannot live with Islam? They can live with Marxism, nationalism, and any other trend in the arena. When we come up with an idea we submit it to others for discussion so they can be convinced of it. It can get the attention it deserves in the political arena, and Islam can come out of the sectarian circle and enter the open ideological circle.

['Asi] There is one point related to Irangate, particularly statements made by Iranian officials such as Rafsanjani on the question of the hostages in Lebanon when that scandal was exposed...

[Fadlallah] It is quite normal that when the issue is raised in international political circles each side tries to look for elements of strength to support its position. Naturally, Iran would stress that it is not directly connected with this matter, but it does wield some influence on some of its friends in Lebanon. The question is: Who carried out the kidnapping? Was the entire Islamic state of affairs responsible, or was a certain security circle responsible? Who are these people? Nobody, not even those who address themselves to the question of Irangate, can specifically say who they are. We maintain that there are caves and valleys in all sections of the Lebanese security map. Therefore, anyone who only sees the surface cannot possibly grasp the situation.

['Asi] If the people in question are friends of Iran, would that not mean that the matter is linked to the Islamic state of affairs, or a part of it?

[Fadlallah] A certain group may be the kidnapper but that does not mean that the Islamic state of affairs is that entire group. The Islamic state of affairs is not a party. It is a popular situation spanning the entire arena. We say that every trend has more than one position in any area. Therefore, the Islamic state of affairs is not responsible for anything other than what it claims responsibility for.

['Asi] The southern suburb has remained outside the boundaries of the security plan covering West Beirut. There are increasing calls for the southern suburb to be included in that plan. Do you think that is possible in the present circumstances?

[Fadlallah] The southern suburb was never a part of the security plan. It could be part of a political solution in Lebanon, or if we are not to go that far, it could be part of a political solution for greater Beirut. If we realize that there is no political solution for Lebanon in sight, we would know there is no political factor necessitating that the southern suburb should be a part of greater Beirut. The southern suburb is a political case, not a security case. If you see the security issue getting closer to the southern suburb you would know that the political question is getting closer to a settlement.

['Asi] Relations between the Islamic fundamentalists and Syria seem to go through periods of tension from time to time such as in the cases of the Fathallah incident and the kidnapping of 'Ali 'Usayran and the American reporter Glass. There are references in the Syrian press and political commentaries to forces that work in the dark. How would you view the future of these relations if the Syrians considered entering the suburb?

[Fadlallah] We take a strategic view of relations with Syria in that we support all those who confront Israel, imperialism, and internal hegemony. When Syria, in its political program, upholds these three principles, we naturally favor integration with it. If problems occur from time to time, we do not believe they are serious enough to affect this strategic integration. That is why, as we have seen, the sincere people have managed to keep the many problems that have occurred under control and prevent them from affecting the nature of these relations. Naturally, differences do occur between the Islamic phenomenon anywhere and any state that disagrees with its ideologies and perhaps, general political lines but agrees with some aspects of its strategy. Naturally, differences do occur, but we believe these matters can be brought under control in a mature and conscientious manner. That is what happens. We believe the Islamic phenomenon, as most of its symbols have said, is not responsible for the latest kidnap operation. Furthermore, no evidence has been produced to confirm these accusations. There is only unconvincing talk meant for local consumption.

['Asi] After Prime Minister Rashid Karami's assassination the patriotic and Islamic groups were advised to form a front embodying all the parties, as well as the Amal Movement, but not the Islamic state of affairs. What is your attitude to the formation of such a front?

[Fadlallah] As upholders of Islam we are not interested in joining political fronts because we do not see much chance of seriousness and success there. Every group has a regional or international background and we know that these political backgrounds do not have, in this respect, a single concept in common. Therefore, judging from past experience and the complex relationships, we do not believe such a front stands any chance of success. What is needed is an examination of the mistakes made in tackling Lebanese political developments and in dealing with the various issues tactically instead of strategically. We must examine the situation in isolation from the transient circumstances and see how we can tackle the Lebanese question. The plans now being reactivated by certain governments under certain headings or stemming from certain situations and alliances under certain headings are, to my mind, like sand castles built by children playing on the beach. Each child builds his own castle and quarrels with the others over its size; then the waves come and sweep away these unfounded castles.

['Asi] How do you view the future of Lebanese-Palestinian relations after the camps war?

[Fadlallah] I am one of those who believe that the call for a return to the pre-1982 situation is merely a political and propaganda ploy, not a reality, because the Palestinian presence before 1982 stemmed from a position of strength. They were the direct rulers of Lebanon in accordance with the international game requirements. They, indirectly, were the power that frightened the Arab countries, the Arab states. However, that strength disappeared with their departure from Lebanon. That put them in the margin of Arab politics, as required by the international game and the plans hatched by Arab instruments that wanted to turn the Palestinian resistance into a regime, like other regimes, to think revolutionarily in the mentality of the regimes and act politically on the basis of the red lines by which the regimes abide. That is why, regardless of how much they want to, the Palestinians will never be able to return to their pre-1982 position in Lebanon because Lebanon was a vacuum then. Now it is armed all the way from one end to the other. We believe that there should be some kind of cooperation between us and the Palestinian resistance.

Hizballah: 'Israeli Agents' Seek Camps War Renewal

NC111020 Paris AFP in English 0958 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Beirut, July 11 (AFP) — Israeli agents are at work in Lebanon to rekindle the "war of the camps" between the Amal Moslem Shi'ite Movement and Palestinian refugees, according to a leader of the pro-Iranian Hizballah Moslem fundamentalist group.

Speaking in Ba'labakk, 90 kilometers (55 miles) northeast of Beirut, Shaykh 'Abbas Musawi also warned against what he called "an escalade in the plot aimed at both Shi'ites and Palestinians," newspapers reported here.

Militiamen of the Hizballah, or Party of God, movement have seldom participated in the battles opposing Shi'ites and Palestinians around refugee camps in Beirut and near the southern town of Sidon since 1985.

The latest flare-up of the so called "war of the camps" started at the end of September and lasted for about five months. Hundreds of people were killed or injured on both sides, but especially among the Palestinians.

Amal marksmen injured three Palestinians Monday east of Sidon, police said, and Palestinian organizations said that Palestinians in the nearby region of Tyre have been "arrested and tortured" by Amal militiamen.

The Shi'ite organization, the Palestinians said, seeks to push them out of Lebanon.

PFLP-GC South Security Chief Escapes Assassination

NC101156 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] A PFLP-GC security source has divulged that Abu Muhammad Kamil, the PFLP-GC's official in charge of security in southern Lebanon, and his family were the target of an assassination attempt at dawn yesterday in a grenade attack upon his house. Kamil had been kidnapped a week ago, but was later released.

Amal Military Official Assassinated in Suburb

NC101205 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] Unknown gunmen assassinated Abu Samrah, Amal military official in charge of the Qasr al-Mashnuq Vocational School-Al-'Amiliyah combat line [in West Beirut]. The assassination took place in Al-Murayjah in [Beirut's southern] suburb last night.

Two More Amal Officials Killed

NC101651 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Excerpt] According to a security report released today, Hatim Diyab, Amal military official in charge of the Al-Ruways area, was assassinated by unidentified gunmen in the Al-Ruways area of Beirut's southern suburb last evening. Another Amal official, 'Ali Diyab, was also assassinated.

According to an Amal statement issued today, some of the movement's forces immediately stormed what were described as hideouts at the scene of the incident and in other areas of the suburb, detaining suspicious persons. [passage omitted]

2 Syrians Killed in Ba'labakk; Search Carried Out

NC111220 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] According to information received from Ba'labakk, Syrian forces are carrying out a large-scale search in the town of Al-Hirmil following the death of two Syrian soldiers early yesterday. The report says Hizballah members fired a rocket at the

vicinity of Al-Khomeyni Hospital in Ba'labakk. Syrian troops subsequently set up checkpoints between the towns of al-Hirmil and Ba'labakk in an attempt to apprehend wanted persons.

Amal Issues Statement on Ambush in South

NC130631 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0500 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Excerpt] The Amal Movement issued a statement yesterday claiming responsibility for an attack on enemy and agent forces along the Al-Jurmuq-Al-Mi'zanah road in Jabal al-Rayhan. The statement said: At 1000 yesterday the Martyrs Hasan Dawud and 'Abdallah Nadr Groups of the faithful Lebanese Resistance laid an ambush against a mechanized patrol of the Zionist enemy and its agent along the Al-Jurmuq-Al-Mi'zanah road in Jabal al-Rayhan. When the patrol arrived in the area, our mujahidin used rockets and various caliber machineguns against it, destroying a half-track vehicle, damaging an M-116 troop carrier, and killing or wounding all 15 members of the patrol.

In the meantime, the Martyr (Hisham 'Atwah) Group of the resistance shelled intensively enemy and Lahd positions in Tallat al-Suwayda' and the surrounding area, using 88-mm and 60-mm mortars. The shells scored direct hits, destroying most enemy ramparts and strongholds and wounding several personnel.

The statement adds that two Amal mujahidin were wounded slightly and moved by their brothers outside the battle area. The two groups returned safely to base. [passage omitted]

Army Command Dismisses 5th Brigade Commander

NC120535 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0500 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] According to informed sources in East Beirut, the Army Command issued a decision yesterday dismissing Colonel Paul Faris as commander of the 5th Brigade. It has been learned that Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' considered the dismissal as an act directed against him personally. He consequently asked Faris to disregard the decision and to continue his duties as 5th Brigade commander.

Weapons Reaching Palestinian Camp Via PSP Trucks

NC101715 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] The *Central News Agency* has quoted security sources in Sidon as saying that quantities of food, weapons, and ammunition have been transferred to 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in the last few hours by trucks flying the PSP flag. The sources add that this is not the first such step by the Socialists in the last few weeks and that it comes in the wake of pressure on the PSP leader by Palestinians in general and some of Yasir 'Arafat's aides in particular.

The same sources noted that [PSP leader] Minister Junblatt has justified measures adopted against some pro-'Arafat leaders on the Mountain and in Iqlim al-Kharrub by blaming them on Syrian pressure. Junblatt said that he himself recently had to surrender some of his party aides due to this pressure.

Protest Lodged With UK Over Arms Supply to Rebels

LD121825 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the British Embassy in Kabul was summoned this morning at 1000 to the Foreign Affairs Ministry. The following protest note was handed to him:

Actively participating in all dimensions in the undeclared war against the DRA, the British Government equips the armed extremist opponents of Afghanistan with various types of modern weapons including Blowpipe missiles. It also uses its military instructors to train these elements in the use of these weapons.

The country's security forces have already seized a number of Blowpipe missiles along with their launchers, and these were shown to domestic and foreign journalists some time ago. The forces have obtained enough documentation to prove that the British authorities are actively involved in supplying these weapons.

Recently, the British press revealed that the British Foreign Affairs Ministry, government, and military intelligence were responsible for handing over the Blowpipe missiles to the armed extremists. Subsequently, the British press reported that Peter [name indistinct], an official from the military intelligence sector of the British Foreign Affairs Ministry, after 3 years' service in Pakistan from 1982-85 and after establishing contacts with the leaders of the armed opposition in Afghanistan, set up the delivery of the Blowpipe missiles, as well as the visit by leaders of the armed opposition groups with British authorities, including Margaret Thatcher. None of the preceding points has been rejected by the British authorities.

Based on the fact that this action by the British Government was confronted by a serious reaction in the House of Commons and that the British Government was unable to defend itself in the House of Commons during a discussion of this issue, it must be concluded that the supply of Blowpipe missiles to the extremists has been carried out in contravention of the current [words indistinct] laws of Britain.

In addition, the recent assertion by Sir Geoffrey Howe, secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, that equipping the armed extremist opponents of Afghanistan with various types of (?weapons) should elicit expressions of pleasure, constitutes further proof that it is the British authorities who are equipping the armed extremist opponents of Afghanistan. This has no other aim but to create obstacles in implementing the policy of national reconciliation and increasing tension in the region.

The DRA Foreign Ministry, in protesting the British Government's deeds, which directly contravene accepted international norms, demands that that government should stop taking revenge for the defeat of MacNaghten and Cavagnari [British citizens killed in the second British war against Afghanistan] in Afghanistan, should avoid the policy of Stinger and Blowpipe unity, and should end its obvious and undeniable interference in the internal affairs of our free, independent, and nonaligned country.

Draft Constitution Approved; Referendum Submitted

LD121733 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] A routine session of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium was chaired yesterday afternoon by Haji Muhammad Chamkani, acting president of the Revolutionary Council Presidium, at Gol Khanah Palace, the headquarters of the Revolutionary Council. At its session, the Revolutionary Council Presidium discussed the draft of the DRA constitution.

After all the members at the session had expressed their views on every item of the constitution and assessed it fully, the Presidium, in consideration of the present conditions existing in the country within the context of national reconciliation, passed the following resolution concerning the publication of the draft constitution in the country's mass media:

Resolution of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium

The DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium has assessed the DRA draft constitution and states:

1) The DRA draft constitution, which has been prepared by the commission to draft the DRA constitution, is affirmed.

2) The draft constitution will be submitted for general referendum.

3) The commission to draft the constitution will submit the draft of the DRA constitution to all Afghan citizens through the mass media. They are then to conduct a survey on the people's opinions and suggestions. After these opinions and suggestions are considered and integrated into the final draft, it will be submitted to the Revolutionary Council for approval. The final draft will then be ratified at a meeting of the National Assembly.

The DRA Revolutionary Council addresses all free-born people of Afghanistan, including peasants, workers, intellectuals, artisans, traders and enterpreneurs, clergymen, state staff, members of social organizations and national and progressive forces, political parties, and all Afghans abroad to express their opinions, proposals, and beliefs in connection with this draft and to do their part for the people and the homeland by being prepared to complete the draft of this national, credible document in a humane, noble, and Islamic matter.

2 Armed Groups Join Reconciliation Process

LD121502 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Excerpts] Herat, 12 Jul *Bakhtar* — A group of 1,200 men armed with heavy and light weapons, led by Din Mohammad Moshwani, who had engaged in armed activities in areas around Koshk, Herat Province, for some time, joined the national reconciliation process yesterday.

A BIA correspondent reports that these compatriots were warmly welcomed by party and state officials and by a large number of Herat's citizens. The group attended a meeting held on this occasion in the village of Darwesh Ali. After the recitation

of a few holy Koranic verses by a clergyman from Herat Province, the head of Herat Province's Defense Council, the secretary of the party provincial committee, and the commander of the Herat forces spoke in detail about the national reconciliation policy, the peace-loving policy of the party and revolutionary state. They regarded the group's action to join the national reconciliation process as a valuable step toward ensuring peace and security in Herat Province. [passage omitted]

The report adds that the group's members have organized tribal units and companies to ensure peace and security in the areas around Koshk and to stand by other defenders of peace.

According to a report from Jowzjan Province, an armed group of 18 men, headed by Mohammad Osman, ended their armed activities and returned to their homes in the Suzma Qala [name as received] subdistrict after learning of the national reconciliation policy.

'Extremist' Leader Killed in Clash in Iran
LD130810 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0424 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Text] Kabul, July 12, *Bakhtar* — One of the ring-leaders of the extremist groupings, Safiullah Afzali, has been killed in the region of Torbat-e Jam in Iran as a result of differences existed between the extremist groups, reports reaching here say. During the attack, reports add, two of Safiullah's guards have also been killed.

Safiullah Afzali started subversive activities since the victory of April Revolution of 1978. He was heading the subversive activities of a terrorist group in Herat Province, bordering Iran.

Security Forces Recover Large Arms Caches
LD101757 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] *Bakhtar* reports that the country's vigilant security forces, with the cooperation of the people, have recently discovered weapons and ammunition depots belonging to extremist elements deployed in the Kowt-e Ashu and Jalez regions of Vardak province and in Paghman district of Kabul province and confiscated them.

The report adds that the weapons and ammunition included 444 surface-to-surface missiles, 2 reactive units [as heard], 3 howitzers, 4 ZK-1's, 4 mortars, 2 DShKs, 2 heavy machineguns, 16 weapons of various types, 380 mortar shells, 387 shells for recoilless guns, 217 rockets, 423 boxes of ammunition for various weapons, 4 communication sets, 50 antivehicle mines, 108 antipersonnel mines, 30 hand grenades, and 3 boxes of explosives. They had been brought from Pakistan into the country by extremist elements in order to disrupt peace in the region.

The report adds that the people of these regions, in perceiving the evil intention of the extremists, contacted the national reconciliation commissions and demanded that the security forces should remove the depots belonging to the extremist elements.

In consideration of the inhabitants' demand, and in line with cease-fire rules, the security forces surrounded the regions where the extremists existed, asked them to lay down their arms and to hand the depots over to the security forces. But the extremist elements, ignoring the cease-fire, opened fire on the security forces and refused to surrender.

The security forces, in order to prevent the criminal actions of the extremists, returned the extremists' fire. As a result, 12 of the extremists, together with their weapons and ammunitions depots, fell into the hands of the security forces.

Karachi Reports Mujahidin Down 2 Soviet Planes
BK121038 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1000 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that the mujahidin have shot down two Soviet aircraft in Paktia and in the Nurestan Valley of Laghman Province, while fighting is reportedly continuing betwen the Afghan mujahidin and Soviet-Kabul troops in the (Garoh) area.

Meanwhile, the mujahidin ambushed a Soviet-Kabul military convoy at Farah Rud town in Farah Province, which borders Iran, and inflicted heavy losses on its personnel.

Mujahidin Kill, Wound 400 in Nangarhar Province
BK130830 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin killed or wounded 400 Soviet-Kabul troops during fierce clashes in Sorkh Rud and Jalalabad areas in Nangarhar Province. The fighting is reportedly still going on.

Dhaka 'Paralyzed' by 24-Hour General Strike

BK120556 Hong Kong AFP in English
0555 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Dhaka, July 12 (AFP) — A 24-hour general strike called by industrial and transport workers' unions virtually paralyzed Dhaka early Sunday, with stores, banks and government offices shut and transport services at a standstill.

Police and union sources said the nationwide strike had begun peacefully in the capital, where security on major public sites had been strengthened and riot police were patrolling the streets.

Reports had not yet come in from other parts of the country, but organizers said they expected the strike to be followed in all areas.

The strike was called last week by the Sramik Karmachari Okkya Parishad (SKOP), an umbrella group of leading transport and industrial workers' unions, for higher wages and better working conditions. The call was backed by smaller trade unions and employee associations, as well as major opposition political parties and militant student groups.

The SKOP also demands the government's resignation, the dissolution of parliament, general elections, the abolition of new tax measures, and the reversal of a government decision to disinvest in public enterprises.

The strike, the third in three weeks after half-day stoppages called by the opposition on June 21 and 30, is seen by analysts here as a further show of strength against the government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

Parliamentary Walkout Reported

BK120916 Hong Kong AFP in English
0915 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Excerpts] Dhaka, July 12 (AFP) — Police baton-charged thousands of protesters and the opposition walked out of Parliament Sunday as the Bangladesh Government passed a controversial bill on the appointment of military personnel to district councils, witnesses said.

The ruling Jatiya Party rushed the bill through Parliament in five to seven minutes as the opposition Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina Wajed made a stormy protest and walked out of the chamber, witnesses said.

The legislation provides for the nomination of Army personnel to district councils in Bangladesh's 64 districts.

Witnesses said police dispersed several thousand opponents of the bill led by supporters of the Awami League and eight-party alliance who tried to break through a police cordon and approach Parliament, which had been declared a restricted area.

About 100 opposition supporters were injured in the mid-day clash with police who also briefly detained several opposition leaders, said Mufazzal Hussain Maya, head of the local Awami League. Police denied that any opposition leaders had been detained.

At an earlier rally, opposition leaders called for an eight-hour general strike Monday to protest passage of the bill which they said was part of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's plan to "militarise" the administration.

Meanwhile, a 24-hour general strike called by industrial and transport workers' unions virtually paralyzed Dhaka Sunday, with stores, banks and government offices shut and transport services at a standstill. [passage omitted]

At the international airport here, most domestic flights had been delayed or cancelled while incoming passengers were left stranded at the airport terminal 11 miles (18 kilometers) away without buses, taxis and airline vehicles.

Opposition Protests Council Bill

BK121602 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Excerpt] The Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] passed seven bills during the morning sitting today. These are: the Bangladesh Biman Corporation Amendment Bill, Work and Compensation Amendment Bill, Presidential Election Amendment Bill, the Public (?Demand) Recovery Amendment Bill, the University Laws Amendment Bill, the Members of Parliament Salaries and Allowances Second Amendment Bill, and the local Government, Zila Parishad [district council] bill.

The Zila Parishad Bill was introduced by Shah Moazzam Hussain, local government and rural development minister. The bill aims at entrusting the Zila Parishad with responsibility to review from time to time the development activities of the concerned districts. The Parishad will comprise five categories of members, including people's elected representative and a nominated representative each from the civil and military services.

The members of the 8-party alliance led by the Awami League staged a walkout in protest against the passing of the bill. Our parliamentary representative says a large number of amendments to the new bill moved by opposition members were rejected by the house. The Sangsad also adopted by voice vote a minor amendment to the rules of procedures of the house. [passage omitted]

Minister on Opposition Move

BK130311 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Text] The Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] resumes its session at 0930 [0330 GMT] this morning to continue general discussion on the national budget.

Taking part in yesterday's evening sitting, Religious Affairs Minister Maulana M.A. Mannan said Parliament is sovereign and the dignity of its members must be ensured. Criticizing the opposition leaders, he said they indiscriminately support

demands from different sections of the society but at the same time they obstruct the government's efforts to raise funds to meet the demand.

Quoting newspaper reports published in the Middle East, Maulana Mannan said frequent strikes observed in Bangladesh without the presence of a strong democratic system in the country. [sentence as heard] Twelve other members from the treasury bench also took part in the discussion. The deputy prime minister in charge of the Home Ministry, M.A. Matin, made a statement in the House last night on the incidents near (Bangla Mitra) in the capital. He said the procession, led by 8-party alliance leaders, was trying to proceed beyond (Bangla Mitra) toward Parliament area defying prohibitory orders and became unruly and started brickabatting the police on duty. As a result, seven policemen were injured and some of them hospitalized. Nineteen people were arrested and mild lathi [baton] charge was made on the processionists to bring the situation under control.

Dhaka metropolitan police has also issued a similar statement explaining the incident.

Presidential Polling Begins; Results Due 16 Jul
BK130454 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0435 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Text] Polling has just begun to elect the country's eighth president. While voting for the members of Parliament is being held in the Parliament house in the capital, for the MLA's [Members of Legislative Assembly] it is taking place in the state capitals. Polling will end at 1700 this evening. The vice president and the Congress-I nominee, Mr R. Venkataraman; the opposition candidate, Mr Justice Krishna Iyer; and an independent contestant, Mr Mithleshkumar are the three candidates. All the ballot boxes will be brought to New Delhi by Wednesday [15 July], and the counting will be taken up in the Parliament house next day. The results will be announced the same evening. The term of the president, Giani Zail Singh, expires on the 24th of this month.

Senior Minister Says Sikhs Using Chinese Weapons
BK101035 Hong Kong AFP in English
1007 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] New Delhi, July 10 (*AFP*) — Chinese arms are being increasingly smuggled into India and are a favourite weapon for Sikh militants battling for a homeland in Punjab, a senior minister was quoted as saying Friday.

Chinese arms were being smuggled into the country "not by individuals but in collusion with a power," the *United News of India* (UNI) quoted Minister of State for Home Palaniappan Chidambaram as telling a government meeting Thursday.

The minister did not name any country, but said "loaded Chinese arms" had been seized from Sikh separatists in the northern state of Punjab. India regularly accuses Pakistan of arming and training Sikh militants. Islamabad has denied the charge.

India has in the past charged China with aiding separatist guerrillas in the north-east, where half-a-dozen guerrilla groups are active. China is also a leading arms supplier to Pakistan.

Sikh militants who killed 72 Hindus in three different attacks in Punjab and Haryana this week reportedly used Chinese-made AK-47 assault rifles.

Gandhi Assures States of Aid Against Terrorism
BK121612 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has assured states of all help to fight terrorism. Addressing the Congress-I parliamentary party in New Delhi today, he said there cannot be any compromise with the forces of violence.

Mr Gandhi reiterated the government's determination to stamp out terrorism and urged all secular and democratic forces to mobilize the people against it. He cautioned the members against the dangerous designs of the terrorists and said their objective was to provoke communal feelings. If we react in anger, it will only strengthen their hands.

Expressing regrets over communal violence in Meerut, Delhi, and other parts of the country, Mr Gandhi advocated stern action against those who instigated riots.

Referring to the presidential election, the prime minister said it is an important event which will help strengthen our unity. It will demonstrate that the center is strong enough to overcome problems facing the country.

Briefing newsmen at the end of the meeting, the general secretary, Mr Naval Kishor Sharma, said the parliamentary party expressed full confidence in the leadership of Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

Barnala Supports Party Campaign Against Terrorism
BK111423 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] In Punjab, the Akali Dal-Longowal Party has decided to launch a massive campaign against terrorism and violence. Stating this to newsmen in Chandigarh today, the party president, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, said terrorists are destroying the noble tradition of the Sikh religion. He said the common Sikh has a strong dislike for the terrorists as their activities are against the state and the country and run counter to the principles of Sikhism. He said his party is totaly committed to peace, communal harmony and national amity.

Mr Barnala appealed to the prime minister and the union home minister to take immediate steps to check any retaliatory violence since the aim of the terrorists is only to foment communal tension.

Referring to the Punjab accord, Mr Barnala maintained that it has already been approved by Parliament and Haryana Assembly. He said the change in government in Haryana cannot alter the stand of the state on a particular issue.

State Officials Meet, Discuss Antiterrorist Plans
BK111630 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Antiterrorist cells manned by personnel specially trained for the task are to be set up in seven northern states. The cells will be responsible for all aspects of the drive against terrorism. Senior officials of the seven states met in New Delhi today to discuss the strategy to deal with terrorism and endorse the proposal. The states are Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Two union territories — Chandigarh and Delhi — are also covered. The cabinet secretary, Mr P.G. Deshmukh, presided over the meeting which was attended by officials in charge of administration and security in these states and union territories. Others who attended were the home secretary, Mr C.G. Somaiya, and the chiefs of the central intelligence and police organizations, chairman of the railway board and chief of civil aviation security, besides Mrs Sarla Grewal, secretary to the prime minister.

They stressed the need for strengthening intelligence collection at the grassroots level. It was agreed to organize highway mobile

patrolling in vulnerable areas, tightening of checkposts and arrangement of faster communication of information. Several suggestions were made to secure the people's cooperation in a greater measure. They include organization of village-level squads for self-defense, educating the public about the designs of the antinational forces to divide the people on communal lines and to train and motivate the security forces. The officials have also decided to pay special attention to improve the morale of police force through welfare measures.

During the deliberations the security environment was reviewed and it was felt that the fight against terrorism will have to be carried on with greater vigor and on a wider front. The assessment was that substantial financial and motivational backing is available from abroad to the terrorists. Against this background, the states were advised to gear up the security machinery, upgrade their intelligence system and seek ways of effective coordination with neighboring states and central agencies.

The officials have decided to work out arrangements for sharing information and improving coordination of operations among the states and the center.

Addressing the meeting, the minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, said that terrorism, which is spreading from Punjab, poses the greatest threat to our policy since independence. Calling for a total national fight against the menace, the minister suggested that people should be mobilized in this all-out war not only in Punjab but also in its bordering areas.

Strikes Held To Protest Punjab, Haryana Killings

BK101640 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] Several cities in the country today observed a bundh [strike] in protest against the massacre of bus passengers in Punjab and Haryana early this week. The bundh was total and peaceful in Bombay. Road and suburban train traffic was paralyzed. Industrial establishments and educational institutions were closed. Attendance in government offices was thin. Over a dozen other towns in Maharashtra also observed bundh.

Opposition members in both houses of Maharashtra legislature today staged a walkout to express their solidarity with the organizers of the bundh. In the council, the entire proceedings of the day were boycotted by all the opposition members. In the assembly, the Bharatiya Janata Party boycotted following the speaker's refusal to discuss the bundh in the house.

Raipur city in Madhya Pradesh observed a peaceful bundh today. All business activities and road transport came to a standstill. In Kanpur, almost all the shops and business establishments were closed. Ajmer also observed a complete bundh. Work in high court and subordinate courts in Calcutta came to a standstill as advocates and lawyers stayed away. Lawyers in Port Blair abstained from work.

The AICCI [All India Congress Committee-I] has decided to pay 10,000 rupees each to the next of kin of those killed in the three buses by the terrorists in Punjab and Haryana. This was announced by the party general secretary, Mr G.K. Moopanar, in New Delhi today. He told newsmen that 5,000 rupees each will be paid to those injured and disabled in the tragedy.

Prohibitory Orders Extended in Delhi to 19 Jul

BK101615 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] In Delhi, unconfirmed reports say that one person died and four others were injured in a violent incident in Lal Kuan area in the walled city. The incident occurred during the curfew relaxation period. Curfew was relaxed in Houz Kazi and Kamla Market police station areas for 2 hours in the evening. The situation in other areas is reported to be peaceful. Curfew was lifted from Patel Nagar in west Delhi this morning.

Prohibitory orders in the entire union territory have been extended up to the 19th of this month.

'Tense' Situation Prevails in Parts of Meghalaya

BK120904 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] In Meghalaya, additional security forces were deployed in (Garikhana) area in Shillong yesterday following some cases of attempted arson and stone throwing. The situation in other parts of the town continues to be tense but under control. A number of arrests have been made. According to official sources, curfew has been relaxed today, in some areas for 4 hours during the day.

The chief minister, Captain Sangma, held a series of meetings with senior officials and cabinet colleagues to review the situation.

Naga Rebels Attack Military Camp, Capture Arms

BK110309 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] According to a delayed report, about 100 Naga rebels attacked the Assam Rifles camp in Senapati District in Manipur on Thursday [9 July], killing eight personnel and injuring four seriously. The rebels belonging to the Nationalist-Socialist Council of Nagaland took away a lot of arms and ammunition. The state chief minister, Mr Rishang Keishing, strongly condemned the act in the assembly yesterday.

Gandhi Questioned About Domestic, Foreign Issues

PM101042 Paris L'HUMANITE in French
2 Jul 87 pp 13-14

[Interview with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by Roland Leroy in New Delhi on 30 June]

[Text] Roland Leroy: You are approaching the midway point of this legislative term under your premiership. How do you feel at this stage?

Rajiv Gandhi: Of course, the midway point is always a difficult time. We have had our share of problems, but I believe that we are coming to the end of this period. In a few weeks we will leave these problems behind us.

The real problem is that for some years the Congress Party's organizational bases have been inadequate. In fact, this dates back to 1969. Most of our problems are due to that. Therefore, we must now rebuild our organization and eliminate the existing weaknesses.

Roland Leroy: There are at the moment many scandals in India. At the same time an opposition alliance has just won the elections in the state of Haryana. Mr Lal called it a "referendum against Rajiv Gandhi." What is your opinion?

Rajiv Gandhi: The series of scandals to which you refer began with groundless and unsupported charges. The government has examined this matter and has decided to carry out an inquiry. The people involved in these scandals must be punished. From the outset we have told both the foreign company involved in the scandal and its government (Sweden — *L'Humanite* editor's note) that we were opposed to middlemen receiving commissions (in other words, bribes — *L'Humanite* editor's note). If this has happened, we will ensure that the culprits are punished.

Roland Leroy: Why did you approach the American private detective agency, Fairfax, to uncover the guilty parties?

Rajiv Gandhi: We do not know whether we have actually hired the services of an American agency. We have formed a committee comprising two supreme court judges and we await its response.

Roland Leroy: I repeat my question: Your party has just lost the elections in the state of Haryana. A coalition including right-wing parties was victorious. Its leader, Devi Lal, called it a "referendum against Rajiv Gandhi." What is your opinion?

Rajiv Gandhi: It is not as simple as that. The major problem is again bad party organization. Also, there is the problem of the Punjab. Slaughters and terrorist crimes occurred in Delhi on the very eve of the elections.

With this kind of problem, when you envisage a long-term solution you inevitably experience a difficult period because people cannot see the immediate consequences of decisions, the implications of which they are unaware.

It should also be added that following the 1979 and 1982 elections in Haryana State our party formed a government alliance with political forces that had opposed it during the election campaign. This did not help improve the party's image. Furthermore, a gulf has opened up between the party leadership, its organization, and the people. Other minor problems have occurred. So, as far as we are concerned, the Haryana elections are in no way a referendum against our government and its achievements. Look, the economy is doing well and we have a very consistent foreign policy. On the domestic plane, we have also resolved a number of questions. The Punjab is undoubtedly the major problem remaining.

Roland Leroy: I would like to know more about what you mean when you talk about reforming the Congress Party. How will you bridge the "gulf" you mentioned between the party and the workers?

Rajiv Gandhi: There are many things to be done but the most important is to hold internal party elections. They have not been held since 1972. The situation is such that if we observe our regulations, these elections cannot be held. We must therefore make changes.

We have established a committee of eminent persons within the party. We await its proposals for the necessary measures to revitalize the party.

Roland Leroy: How do you intend to end the confrontations between the communities? You have yourself talked about destabilization attempts. How are they to be stopped?

Rajiv Gandhi: In general terms we must ensure that religions are not used for political ends; the same applies to the different customs, attitudes, and mentalities of our country's various communities. But, above all, economic development must be balanced. It enables some formerly disadvantaged people to achieve prosperity and causes the social position of others to become jeopardized. Particular groups must not feel neglected or excluded.

This entails a major effort not only by the government but also by the Congress Party. Thus, we return to the issue of the party's weaknesses. What makes our task difficult is that forms of extremism are developing throughout the world. Thus, there are communities abroad that may have relations with those in India and help them morally and financially.

Roland Leroy: Do you believe, therefore, that the threats stemming from the confrontations between communities are not unconnected with plans outside India to destabilize your government?

Rajiv Gandhi: Yes but these pressures do not concern religious matters alone. They have existed for a long time and are exerted in other fields. Developing countries are more sensitive and more vulnerable to such pressures than developed countries. A country such as India, which forges its own path, is nonaligned, and speaks with an independent voice, therefore suffers more than countries within the blocs.

Roland Leroy: India is suffering the effects of the developed countries' economic crisis. What are the main guidelines of your domestic economic policy?

Rajiv Gandhi: Like the developed countries, India is faced with a difficult international environment. But I am pleased to say that basically we have succeeded in coping, despite the difficulties. During the past 6 years we have had a growth rate of approximately 5 percent. This is considerably higher than the developed countries' average. Nevertheless, we remain anxious about the world economy which, I agree, is not in good health at present.

In my opinion our economic results demonstrate the correctness of our policy. The seventh 5-year plan illustrates its structure. Agriculture remains the foundation of our economy. We have achieved many things in this field thanks to what we call the "green revolution." We have progressed from a food deficit situation to a position of having an agricultural surplus. We are currently making great efforts to develop agriculture in areas where we have hitherto devoted insufficient attention. We want to raise the growth rate in agriculture to approximately 4 percent during the seventh 5-year plan. This will lay the foundations for rapid growth in other sectors of the economy and for a general improvement of living standards.

In the industrial sector impressive bases for action already exist. But there is a pressing need to modernize and improve technology. We must reduce costs. Our industrial policy is designed to bring about the transition from a relatively high-cost economy to a low-cost economy. To this end we are formulating new procedures and encouraging competition in several sectors.

The public sector plays an extremely important role in our economy and we are making sustained efforts to improve its efficiency. Our basic aim is to create a strong, independent, and modern economy. We have made considerable progress toward this objective in the past and we are still striving in this direction.

Roland Leroy: India is a member of the Group of Six. Together with Mexico, Argentina, Tanzania, Greece, and Sweden, you are calling for an immediate end to nuclear tests. You recently urged the USSR and the United States to seize the historic opportunity to proceed to nuclear disarmament. It is a move that raises an issue crucial to the whole of mankind. Do you believe that the world can now hope to eliminate the threat of nuclear war?

Rajiv Gandhi: You cannot say: It may or may not. It must! It is a matter of determination. The earth must be freed of this threat.

Nuclear weapons are still the greatest menace facing the whole of mankind. It is not simply a matter of knowing what would happen if by chance an error were to occur; technological developments are increasingly excluding human beings from the decisionmaking. Vast sums are spent on nuclear weapons. These crazy amounts of money must be used to improve the cultural, spiritual, and economic conditions of the whole of mankind.

Roland Leroy: You are the leader of the world's second most highly populated country, a founding member of the Nonaligned Movement. The world debt now totals a trillion dollars. You advocate a new economic order. Do you believe such a solution is possible?

Rajiv Gandhi: The debt problem is one of the major problems facing the developing countries, but they are not the only ones affected.

The world economic system is not conceived in such a way as to benefit all the countries of the world. In fact, the international economic system favors wealthy countries, the countries that already have resources. Their protectionist measures, macroeconomic policies, monetary system, and system of trade make life extremely difficult for countries such as ours. India limits its debt to a relatively low level but many other countries are experiencing great difficulties.

There is no time to lose in finding solutions. In order to do this our policies must be coordinated, united, and have very clear objectives. We must show the developed countries that there is a very strong link between their economies and ours, that the wealthy countries' development is closely linked to ours. Thus, the slowing of the industrial countries' growth is now causing problems for us.

You see, we live in one world. We belong to a single human race. We must work together.

Roland Leroy: What is your opinion concerning South Africa?

Rajiv Gandhi: South Africa is one of the last vestiges of colonialism in the world. It is the last place where race is a discriminating factor, the criterion of a human being's worth.

India has stated its position very clearly, but the South African regime is supported by several very powerful countries. Despite the horrors perpetrated there, they support Pretoria for the sake of their own strategic and economic interests. We are also certain that if these half-a-dozen countries so wished, if they really wanted to exert pressures on the Pretoria regime, the South African problem could definitely be resolved.

Roland Leroy: There is still great tension in this region. Pakistan apparently has the capability to manufacture an atomic bomb. What is your assessment of the way the situation is evolving along your borders?

Rajiv Gandhi: Pakistan seems to be making extraordinary efforts to produce nuclear weapons. Recent statements by Pakistani leaders and scientists leave little doubt about the military aspects of Pakistan's nuclear program.

The countries that have the power to prevent Pakistan from pursuing this path have refrained from doing so. Pakistan's quest for nuclear weapons and its constant efforts to acquire sophisticated weaponry such as AWACS, which far exceed its legitimate requirements, have caused a serious deterioration of the security of our environment.

India is still committed to the establishment of friendly and good-neighborly relations with Pakistan within observance of the Simla accord signed in 1972. It is difficult to say whether Pakistan appreciates and shares these feelings.

Roland Leroy: The Sri Lankan Government is waging an open war against the Tamil minority. According to Colombo, you are interfering in the island's internal affairs. What is your response to such charges?

Rajiv Gandhi: India has not interfered in Sri Lanka's internal affairs. But we are very worried because Sri Lanka is next door to us. What happens there inevitably has repercussions in our own country. Furthermore, we are sensitive to human rights violations on the island.

Few present governments subject their peoples to such repression. The Colombo government must abandon its idea of a military solution. It must sincerely negotiate a political accord, otherwise no solution is possible.

Roland Leroy: The time for a reconciliation seems to have come in Afghanistan. Negotiations are going on under UN auspices. In your opinion what are the obstacles to a solution of this problem and what actions do you advocate?

Rajiv Gandhi: India has been profoundly affected by the situation in Afghanistan. It is very important for our region's peace and stability that Afghanistan be a sovereign, nonaligned, and independent country free of any form of intervention and interference. It is therefore necessary to reach a comprehensive solution of the Afghan problem that takes account of the legitimate interests of all the sides involved. We support the UN secretary general's initiative. We also regard the proposals for a national reconciliation as a positive development. The disagreements must be reduced through negotiations.

Nevertheless, I am not sure that Pakistan really wants the issue to be resolved: It receives so much military and financial aid because of Afghanistan....

Roland Leroy: The Gulf war is presently developing in the direction of an internationalization of the conflict. Are you worried about the Western military presence in the Indian Ocean? What is your assessment of Mr Reagan's recent statements that the U.S. Navy might strengthen its presence in the region?

Rajiv Gandhi: Arms suppliers are presently exploiting the conflict for commercial and economic ends. The major powers' naval presence is increasing. Their rivalry throughout the region is increasing. It is a threat to stability. We really hope that this deplorable war will end as soon as possible. If an end were put to arms supplies and to foreign powers' naval presence in the region, it would help greatly to reduce the tension.

Roland Leroy: What is your opinion of the French nuclear tests on Mururoa?

Rajiv Gandhi: We are not at all pleased about the Mururoa tests; for that matter, we are opposed to any tests anywhere in the world. We believe that the first thing to do to end nuclear proliferation is to end nuclear tests.

Roland Leroy: What is the status of Franco-Indian relations?

Rajiv Gandhi: With regard to economic relations between India and France, we believe that our relations are good but not as good as they could be. India and France have always maintained close relations but I believe we could improve them. We could have better economic and cultural relations. "India year" in France was a step forward but we must do more. We hope that in the coming years much stronger relations will be developed between our two countries.

JANA Reports 'Suicide' Exercises in Gulf Planned

LD110857 Tripoli JANA in English 0803 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, Nasser 11, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Iran has declared that exercises on suicide missions are to take place at Oman sea, Hormuz Strait and Gulf waters.

The commander of the Revolution Guards Rafiqdust said that the exercises code-named Martyrdom Manoeuvres are to be conducted in the wake of the American military build up in the Gulf under the pretext of defending security of navigation in the Arab Gulf.

Kuwait Reportedly Executes Islamic Jihad Members

LD110943 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA — Three members of the Islamic Jihad organisation accused of involvement in series of explosions in Kuwait in 1983, have recently been executed.

Al-Amal al-Islami, weekly organ of an Iraq Mojahedin group, quoting informed Kuwaiti sources said that according to a high-ranking official in Kuwait's security organisation, the Amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al-Sabah himself signed execution orders for the three Kuwaiti Muslims.

According to the sources the three, Husayn Qasim Hasan, Baqir Ibrahim and Ilyas Fu'ad Sa'ab, were executed at the central prison of Kuwait late in April.

In 1983 a series of explosions had rocked the U.S. and French embassies and a number of economic centers in Kuwait, following which a number of Kuwaiti Muslims were arrested on alleged charge of involvement in the incidents.

The three Mojahedin were executed on the anniversary of a failed assassination attempt on the life of amir of Kuwait.

French Charge Summoned Over Beating of Diplomat

LD121738 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Our country's Foreign Ministry announced the following today: One of the diplomats of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Embassy in France, who was traveling from Geneva to Paris yesterday evening, was attacked, beaten, and battered by the French Police in the French section of the Geneva airport. The severely injured diplomat's documents were then stolen and he was taken to a hospital in Geneva.

Regarding the barbaric deed of the French police and security officers, which is contrary to all diplomatic conventions, a spokesman for our country's Foreign Ministry said: In view of the fact that the incident took place at the Geneva airport, a protest was directed against the Swiss Government.

However, the Swiss ambassador, who was summoned to the Foreign Ministry today, categorically denied any involvement of the Swiss Government in this issue and stated: The Iranian diplomat was attacked and beaten in the French section of the Geneva airport, which is regarded as part of French territory. However, as the Swiss Government is in charge of medical affairs at the airport, Swiss hospital officials arrived in the French section of the airport last night. There the French police handed over the Iranian diplomat who had head injuries and was unconscious and convulsing on the floor. He was taken to the hospital.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman added: At a time when measures contrary to the Vienna convention continue against the Iranian Embassy in Paris and our country's diplomats there, and when the French authorities have not yet offered any acceptable explanation regarding the blockade of the embassy and other problems they have created for its staff, this new move by the French police at the Geneva airport demonstrates that the new barbarism ruling over the French police system -- which no doubt enjoys the support of some ruling circles of that country -- has no respect for the existing regulations of diplomatic relations and the immunity of diplomats. It has become normal practice for the French police to carry out barbaric and inhumane deeds against foreign diplomats in that country, and, naturally, we cannot put up with such a behavior under any circumstances.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman continued: This evening the French charge d'affaires in Tehran was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and a formal protest was conveyed to him. The Foreign Ministry has demanded an official explanation from the French Government on this matter and on the basis of the French Government's reply, an appropriate response will be made.

Khomeyni Meets With Hajj Organizer 13 Jul

LD131111 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Text] Simultaneous with the departure of the Iranian pilgrims to the House of God and on the eve of holding the big religious-political hajj congress, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, the imam's representative and supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims, met this morning with the imam of the ummah. He was accompanied by several officials.

In an interview with our correspondent after the meeting, Karrubi announced: Today, in the company of Khatami, the Islamic guidance minister; Emam-Jamarani, the supervisor of the hajj and the Religious Endowments Organization; and Rezai'e, the supervisor of the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization, we presented a report to the imam of the ummah on the achievements and various activities of the hajj officials in the areas of publicity, dissemination of hajj issues, facilities for pilgrims, and other programs, and the remarkable progress achieved in this connection.

In the course of this meeting, his holiness the imam, while thanking the officials in charge of the hajj affairs, graciously said: I hope that this year there will be a greater understanding between the Iranian pilgrims, the people of Saudi Arabia, and other honorable pilgrims who go to Mecca from various countries. I hope that the esteemed hojjaj [plural of haji] will observe Shari'ah regulations and Islamic morality more than ever before. He continued: Of course, I shall explain some hajj-related issues

at a later date; however, one of the issues that I must stress is that I hope the government of Saudi Arabia will not create any problems that might generate trouble for themselves and us.

Karrubi said: In the course of this meeting, the imam of the ummah also graciously emphasized that the first prayers of the hojjaj in the House of God should be a prayers for the victory of Islam and the fighters of Islam.

Khomeyni Issues Order Appointing Friday Imam

LD131145 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Excerpt] Imam Khomeyni has issued an order appointing Hojjat ol-Eslam Hajj Sheykh Mohammad Reza Naseri-Yazdi as the Friday imam of Shahr-e Kord and representative of his holiness in the Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari Province. [passage omitted]

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives on 1-Day Visit

Met by Velayati

LD120709 Tehran IRNA in English 0700 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA — Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived here Sunday morning and was welcomed by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

During his one-day visit, Al-Shar' will hand over a written message from President Hafiz al-Asad to President 'Ali Khamene'i. He will also hold talks with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi and other officials.

Upon his arrival, the Syrian foreign minister said that President al-Asad's message concerns recent developments in the region and other issues of mutual interest.

Al-Shar' said that he would take the opportunity to hold talks with Velayati and other Iranian officials.

Pledges To Back Iran

LD121355 Tehran IRNA in English 1347 GMT 12 Jul 87

["Al-Shar' Renews Syria's Pledge To Back Iran in Imposed War, Mutual Ties Termed 'Crucial' " — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA — Visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' held two and a half hours of talks with Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Sunday on bilateral ties, Middle East issues and the latest developments in the Persian Gulf. Al-Shar' renewed Syria's pledge to back Iran in the Iraqi-imposed war.

Expressing concern over the presence of U.S. and other foreign fleets in the Persian Gulf, Al-Shar' said Syria believes this would only electrify the atmosphere and spread the war, rather than cool tension or resolve the conflict.

Reiterating that Syria's stance on the Iraqi-imposed war has not changed, he noted that the Security Council's draft resolution would only complicate the issue instead of resolving it. The Syrian foreign minister revealed that his country favors further strengthening of Tehran-Damascus ties from a strategic point of view.

In response, Velayati noted the Tehran-Damascus common viewpoint that Iran should continue the war until the eventual downfall of Saddam Husayn's regime and its prevention from spilling over to other parts of the region.

Velayati said that presence of foreign fleets in the Persian Gulf will only spread the war, a policy the Iraqi regime has favoured ever since the outbreak of the war. Velayati said Kuwait is being used as a tool for realisation of this sinister Iraqi plot.

Kuwait, virtually turned into an Iraqi province, has put all its resources at the disposal of the Iraqi regime, remarked the Iranian foreign minister. He termed Kuwait's invitation to foreign powers to interfere in the region and the reflagging of its tankers (with U.S. flags) as an individual policy, adopted without coordination with other Persian Gulf states.

Describing Tehran-Damascus ties as 'important', Velayati said the U.S. was conspiring to sow discord between the two countries in order to settle the Lebanese and Palestinian issues according to its own colonial formula such as the Camp David accord.

Meets With Musavi

JN121749 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi this afternoon in the presence of Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and a number of Iranian officials.

Talks focused on relations between the two countries, the current situation in the region in general, developments in the Gulf in particular, and ways to reduce tension in the region and safeguard the security and stablity of its peoples. Earlier, Al-Shar' met with Dr Velayati.

Meeting With Musavi Detailed

LD121845 Tehran IRNA in English 1822 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA — Visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with prime minister Hoseyn Musavi here today where he lauded the Islamic Republic for its "progressive" policies in the region and the world.

Al-Shar' said that Syria has spared no effort to stand by the Islamic Republic in its fight with imperialism. He added that Saddam (Husayn) by imposing the war of aggression on Iran backed down upon his promise to fight the regime occupying Palestine.

The Syrian official expressed regret that Premier Musavi's planned visit to Damascus had been delayed, and called on the prime minister to set a date for his visit to Damascus.

In response, the prime minister described Tehran-Damascus as the "only existing block" in the way of the Zionist regime.

Pointing to the Persian Gulf issue, Musavi said it is in the interest of such a country as Kuwait to take a position of impartiality in the Iraqi-imposed war. A small country like Kuwait should take a position of neutrality, or else it would be crushed by the tension it might create, remarked the prime minister.

Velayati Interviewed on Ties

LD131215 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Jul 87

[Text] Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian foreign minister, who came to Tehran to deliver a message from President al-Asad to President Khamene'i, left Tehran this afternoon after meeting with Khamene'i and passing on President al-Asad's message.

Foreign Minister Velayati was interviewed by our correspondent about the outcome of the Syrian foreign minister's visit, to which we now draw your attention:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr Velayati, please tell us about the outcome of the Syrian foreign minister's visit to Iran.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The visit by His Excellency Faruq al-Shar' took place within the framework of bilateral relations between Iran and Syria. He brought a message from President al-Asad to Khamene'i.

During his 2-day stay in Tehran, he met with our prime minister and president; I also had a relatively lengthy meeting with him. The talks centered on mutual cooperation and relations, as well as on regional and global issues. The relations between Iran and Syria — (?which are) two strategic countries — play an extremely effective role in regional political equations. Close relations were established after the victory of the Islamic revolution, and they have gradually achieved greater and deeper aspects. God willing, this trend will continue in the future, in spite of the propaganda of the common enemies -- regional and worldwide -- of Iran and Syria. The (?mode) of the propaganda shows how sensitive our mutual enemies are to the close ties between the two countries. In the future, we shall see more visits and the expansion of relations in various fields.

During his meeting with the prime minister, Al-Shar' insisted that the prime minister's postponed trip to Syria should take place as soon as possible, considering the fact that Prime Minister al-Kasm has recovered from his illness. Prime Minister Musavi agreed to this. God willing, in the near future, Musavi will set a suitable date for his trip.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

[Velayati] You are welcome. [end recording]

Khamene'i Warns Against 'Superpower Adventures'

LD120834 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 12 Jul 87

["Superpower Adventures in P.G. Face Eventual Disgrace Warns Khamene'i" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA — President and Head of the Supreme Defence Council Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i said here Saturday that currently a calculated movement against Islam and combatant Muslim groups is being shaped in the world because the true nature of Islam has been recognised.

Speaking in a meeting with commanders and members of the protection units of the Islamic revolution's committees, he stressed that present obstacles thrown in the way of Muslims was due to the world powers' fear of Islamic groups. The president said that spiritual power of Islam had been realised worldwide, adding that oppressed nations were hopeful of achieving freedom through an Islamic path.

On the power of Iranian people which stems from their firm reliance of Islamic principles, the president said that brawls, aggression, threats and bullying on the big powers in the Persian Gulf would certainly end with their disgrace and desperation. Of course, he stressed, everything was possible, adding that any mishap would be bravely borne by the Iranian people who would eventually emerge victorious.

In another part of his speech, President Khamene'i hailed services of the committee members and said that the Islamic revolution's committees could set a good example for these nations eager to tread the path of the Islamic revolution.

Khamene'i Briefed by IRGC Official on Operations

LD121455 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA — President Khamene'i received Deputy Commander of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) ground forces Seyyed Rahim Safavi, here Sunday.

Safavi presented a detailed report to the president on the war, on "Nasr-4" and "Nasr-5" operations and the on the combat readiness of the IRGC ground forces.

The IRGC official also briefed Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i on future plans of Muslim combatants of Iran for dealing heavy blows to the Iraqi Army. He announced the combatants' readiness to counter superpowers, especially the U.S. in the Persian Gulf region and the Strait of Hormuz till a final victory.

IRNA Notes 'Anomalies' in Reflagging Plan

LD111501 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] London, July 11, IRNA — One of the great anomalies of the U.S. plans to reflag Kuwaiti ships has been highlighted by the attack on the American-owned *Peconic* supertanker Thursday.

The 273,205 tonnes vessel, with an American captain and charter to the U.S. oil giant Texaco, was reportedly being towed to port by tugs after being attacked and set on fire off the Saudi Arabia coast. It was in ballast and heading for Kuwait's Mina Saud oil loading port.

The attack on the *Peconic* is seen by marine observers as exposing one of the flaws in President Reagan's Persian Gulf policy in that Kuwaiti vessels taking the U.S. flag will be entitled to American protection but U.S. ships, unless they do the same, will not.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater has confirmed that the U.S. has "no intention of retaliating" for the attack on the *Peconic*, even though it is American-owned. He felt that any response would not be appropriate.

The vessel is in a similar position to the bulk of U.S. shipping in the Persian Gulf which fly not under the Stars and Stripes but under flags of convenience for economic expediency. The *Peconic*, sailing under a Liberian flag, did not qualify for any U.S. cover.

American oil companies reportedly feel that it is much cheaper to insure against attacks in the Persian Gulf rather than reregistering their tanker to allow them to fly the U.S. flag. They point out that such an exercise would be very expensive, involving enormous taxation costs and would create additional problems with seaman's unions.

The latest exposure of what has already been seen as an "ill-conceived" plan has raised the concern both in and out of America about the vulnerability and wisdom of the reflagging of 11 tankers due to be operational next week.

In its editorial Friday, America's top selling *Wall Street Journal* reiterates its criticism which it feels is largely based upon a U.S. policy which has "tilted too far to Iraq." Given the geographical position of Iran as the "key" and "largest power" in the Persian Gulf, it said that the U.S. would be "feckless to take a position of undying hostility towards Iran," hoping that the Islamic revolution will "burn itself out."

Whereas for Iraq, the paper asserted that it "started the war, has hit more tankers in the Persian Gulf than Iran has, enjoys a well-earned reputation of unreliability and is heavily supported by the Soviets," and calls for at least some strong pressure to be brought upon Iraq to stop shooting up tankers.

With regard to Friday's attack on the U.S. owned tanker, it questions the "principle" being defended in U.S. policy which threatens to respond to raids on re-flagged tankers but does not react to the attack on the *Peconic* or even on the warship *Stark*. "We have no trouble sending warships to the Persian Gulf, but we wish we were hearing things that persuaded us the administration had thought through what purpose the ships are intended to serve," the daily pleaded.

In Britain, the issue was taken up by the London *Guardian*, which felt that the *Peconic* incident could well be repeated against one of the reflagged Kuwaiti tankers and asks where America stands. Does the U.S. carrier *Constellation* attempt to take out Iranian missile batteries, it questions, and if so "where will the diplomatic fallout land between Tehran, Washington and Moscow."

"This is the bit the Americans have not spelled out and may not have thought out," the paper said, adding that in the meanwhile such a prospect is sending out "shivers" in Europe and in the American Congress.

Tehran Assails 'Shortsightedness' of U.S. Policy

LD111417 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1106 GMT 11 Jul 87

["Political Commentary of the Day: Prolonging Internal Struggles Among U.S. Ruling Circles"]

[Excerpts] Agency reports say that a U.S. vessel flying the Liberian flag was hit and damaged at the end of last week by several missiles in the Persian Gulf. Condemning the incident, the White House spokesman reiterated the urgency of immediate action by the Security Council to end the Iran-Iraq war.

In the meantime, he characterized incidents of this type as ordinary, adding that there was no need for Washington to retaliate.

This incident also led certain members of Congress to express their opposition to the measures to protect Kuwaiti ships and insist on postponing the plan. One Congressman said that since Washington does not have the capability of protecting its own ships, there is no need to reflag Kuwaiti ships. But it must be pointed out that administration officials, responding to these remarks, consider the ship's ownership to be unimportant. They say the ship's flag should determine its identity.

Regardless of the re-emergence of infighting among U.S. ruling quarters over the flying of the U.S. flag on Kuwaiti ships, it seems the Reagan administration is persisting in paving the way to implement the plan. [passage omitted]

In view of the President's legal authority, it does not appear that the opponents of the plan can legally stop it. Even the decision made a few days ago by the House of Representatives to postpone the plan for 90 days appears to have been simply an expression of an opinion. It seems that apart from simple political pressure, the decision will have no specific influence on the plan's implementation.

Having said that, what is interesting is that the diversity and division within U.S. ruling circles is so great that each side, in its own way, considers the implementation of Washington's plan to protect Kuwaiti ships as a source of disgrace for Washington and harmful to the U.S. position in the region.

Little do they know, however, that the prolongation of these clashes — particularly given their repeated experiences, with identical outcomes, in various regions such as Vietnam and Lebanon — has already shown the shortsightedness and oversimplification of the U.S. administration.

Cabinet, Officials Review Latest Moves in Gulf

LD121031 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA — The cabinet Sunday continued deliberations on foreign exchange policies of the current fiscal year and approved some articles in this connection.

According to the articles, priority would be given to the allocation of foreign exchange for the achievement of political, scientific, cultural and economic independence.

Priority would be also given to issues relevant to the Iraqi imposed war and reconstruction and war-stricken areas. Other priorities include basic goods and necessities, controlling of inflation and stabilizing of prices.

Meanwhile, Minister of Mines and Metals Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi reported to the cabinet on the outcome of his recent visit to Bulgaria and his talks with Bulgarian officials on technical and economic relations.

The meeting also reviewed latest developments in the Persian Gulf and stressed the necessity of safeguarding the strategic waterway by the regional countries.

Musavi Denies Iraqi Gains

LD121259 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] After today's cabinet session, Prime Minister Musavi answered our correspondent's questions.

Regarding the Iraqi regime's recent claim that Iraqi forces have advanced in the southern section of the Majnun Islands, he said: Of course the Iraqi forces tried, but they were defeated. Our forces are in full control of the situation. I heard that Iraqi commanders congratulated Saddam Husayn. This shows the weakness of Saddam's regime and his need to raise his troops' morale, to cover up his weakness, and to pretend to the world that he is well established.

He added: To publicize small-scale operations in the region shows the extent of the Saddam regime's misery.

Regarding the government's policies to improve the tax structure, the prime minister said: About 1 year ago, a good start was made to analyze the world's tax systems and various methods of fair tax collection.

He added: The government tries to rely mostly on tax revenues, not on oil revenues, although the current economic situation necessitates this. But along with adopting new methods, the question of educating people about tax matters arises. People realize that by paying taxes they are carrying out their religious and national duties. The government cannot pursue its great goals without this. Without tax payments, it would be impossible to attain our country's independence and security. [passage indistinct]

Musavi on Ties With France, Soviet Plane Incident

LD121652 Tehran IRNA in English 1636 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Excerpts] Tehran, July 12, IRNA — Prime Minister Hosayn Musavi today refuted an Iraqi claim that Ba'thist troops had advanced in parts of the southern Majnun Islands yesterday. However, Musavi said, the Iraqi troops did launch an attack, but were dealt heavy blows by Iranian Muslim combatants. [passage omitted]

On Iran-France relations, Premier Musavi said that Iran's stance on the issue was clear and that there were talks underway between the two countries at the normal diplomatic level. Musavi cited France's internal political issues as a block in the way of removing the current crisis in Tehran-Paris relations.

Musavi noted "Iran will in no way accept tyrannical relations of arrogant powers. It is very difficult for Iran to ignore the difficulties created by foreign governments for Iranian nationals abroad." However, the premier expressed hope that current talks between Iranian and French officials would help settle the matter.

Elsewhere in his speech, the premier said the landing of a Soviet Plane at Zabol Airport, Baluchestan va Sistan Province, did not involve military intent. He said the plane carrying 11 passengers aboard landed at Zabol Airport by mistake Tuesday.

The premier denied that two Afghan nationals had been killed aboard the plane. Musavi also dismissed reports of foreign news agencies that there were up to 520 Soviet militarymen aboard the plane as "completely baseless".

More on the same subject, Premier said that all the plane's passengers were handed over to the Soviet Embassy here following an official apology from the Soviet Government to the Islamic Republic. The plane will be returned to the Soviet Union after investigations are completed, he noted.

Musavi dismissed rumors that the plane was bound for Afghanistan to suppress the Afghan mujahidin saying that it was just destined for an airport in Afghanistan but mistakenly landed at an Iranian airport. Such mistakes occur frequently all over the world, he added.

Montazeri Addresses Iraqi Kurds Living in Iran

LD111206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Excerpts] A group of Iraqi Kurdish ulema and clergymen, who have migrated to Iran to continue their struggles against the Zionist regime of Iraq, met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri yesterday afternoon. [passage omitted]

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: In Islam everyone is part of a single ummah. Wherever pressure is brought to bear on Muslims, all Muslims are responsible for removing it. You can see what has happened to the Muslims in India today. Everyday several are martyred; their properties are set on fire or plundered. The great ulema in India are under pressure.

The Friday imam of New Delhi was arrested and important figures, who serve Islam and the Muslims, were insulted and oppressed -- in spite of the fact that India owes her culture, civilization and independence to Islam and the Muslims. Of course, despite all the pressure and suppression, if we are with God, we shall definitely triumph. God's promise that "Victory comes from God" is certain to be fulfilled.

Finally, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri prayed for the victory of the fighters of Islam on all the fronts, the salvation of oppressed nations -- namely, the two nations of Iran and Iraq -- and for the good health and long life of the imam, may God extend his shadow.

Khamene'i Receives Iraqi Kurdish Muslims

LD112253 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Mullah 'Uthman 'Abd al-'Aziz, one of the high-ranking ulema of Iraqi Kurdistan, accompanied by a number of Friday imams from the Shahruz district of Iraqi Kurdistan, all of whom have fled to Iran, met with President Khamene'i on Saturday morning.

During the meeting, which was also attended by SAIRI chairman Hakim, Mullah 'Uthman 'Abd al-'Aziz delivered a report on the intensification of the struggle of the Muslim Iraqi Kurds against the cruel regime of Saddam and described the role of the religious ulema in leading the struggle of the people of Iraq.

President Khamene'i then expressed his happiness over the arrival of the Muslim Iraqi Kurdish ulema in Islamic Iran, saying: You respected ulema have in fact come home, as we believe that the Islamic country of Iran is a religious center for any Muslim who wishes to live here. We are concerned about any misery and pain that our brothers and sisters are undergoing in Iraq, particularly in Iraqi Kurdistan in recent times. We hope that your migration is the start of the Lord's blessings.

In another part of his remarks, the president stated: Thank God that today SAIRI, with the ulema and notable individuals working within it, is the strongest focus of the struggles of the Iraqi Muslim people. There is no doubt that your presence, along with the ulema and religious figures, will strengthen. Therefore, we believe that the immense movement of the Iraqi people will be victorious under the influence of religion and with the clergy's direction and leadership, because the clergy views all the forces and parts of the nation and all the groups as a kind father.

According to the report, a group of struggling Iraqi Kurdish clerics who migrated to Iran met with Interior Minister Mohtashemi on Saturday afternoon.

Mohtashemi, Iraqi Clergy Meet

NC120619 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] The group of Iraqi combatant clergymen who have taken refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran met with Interior Minister Mohtashemi yesterday afternoon. During the meeting, which also was attended by Dori-Najafabadi, the president's representative to the western areas, one of the Iraqi Kurdish clerics thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Kurdish clerics and all Iraqi Muslims Kurds, and requested that the Kurds be granted greater resources for their struggle until the Iraqi Ba'thist regime is toppled.

The interior minister then referred to the culmination of the Iraqi Muslim nation's struggle against the Iraqi ruling party despite the superpowers' support of Saddam. He expressed the hope that the struggle of the Iraqi Muslim nation, especially of the Muslim Kurdish combatants, will inflict firm blows upon the Iraqi 'Aflaqi regime and root out the evil from the region so that an Islamic and popular regime may be established on Islamic Iraqi soil.

Islamic Guidance Minister on Hajj Pilgrims

LD101630 Tehran IRNA in English 1430 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA — The Ershad-e (Islamic Guidance) minister yesterday said that Iranian pilgrims should announce their hatred of the global arrogance including the U.S. and Zionism during hajj pilgrimage more loudly than ever before now that the U.S. naval fleet in the Persian Gulf was gritting tooth and nail at Iran.

Speaking in a ceremony marking the despatch of Iranian pilgrims to Mecca, Ershad-e Eslami minister Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami called on Iranian pilgrims to perform hajj ceremonies more splendidly than ever before.

The success of Iranian pilgrims in performing hajj pilgrimage according to genuine Islamic principles will not only satisfy God and Prophet Mohammad (SAW) but also cause the enemies of Islam in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and other Islamic states to tremble with fear.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeyni's representative and head of Iranian pilgrims Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi, too, delivered a lecture on the various aspects of hajj pilgrimage.

Hoj. Karrubi said that Iranian pilgrims will invite all Muslims to unify and to mobilize against the enemies of Islam.

Recent Operations in War With Iraq Detailed

Communique No 2,893

LD101610 Tehran IRNA in English 1505 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA — Iranian Navy gunboats intercepted and searched 13 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Thursday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied they were not carrying goods for Iraq, said a military communique here Friday.

The 2893rd Joint Staff communique said that at least 40 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and three enemy munitions

dumps, 25 gun emplacements and one vehicle were destroyed in the western fronts yesterday when hit by Iranian artillery fire.

In the southern fronts Thursday, Iranian Muslim combatants reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions, killing or wounding 10 enemy soldiers and destroying several gun emplacements and observation posts of theirs.

Muslim forces of Iran smashed a three-pronged Iraqi offensive backed by heavy artillery fire in Kani-Sheykh and Shur Shirin theaters, western fronts, early Thursday, inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on the attacking enemy troops and forcing the others to flee.

Three Iraqi tanks were heavily damaged in Nahr 'Anbar and south of Al-Basra, southern fronts, Thursday by the artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements and observation posts together with one vehicle were destroyed in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim forces yesterday.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces inflicted several casualties on Iraqi troops and set ablaze several enemy gun emplacements and observation posts in parts of the fronts Thursday, the communique concluded.

PUK Forces Kill Iraqi Troops

LD101637 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA — Peshmergas of Iraq's patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) killed over 40 Iraqi troops and captured 20 others during two operations in Shaqlawah-Hayran road, Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters reported here today.

During the attacks PUK peshmergas also set afire seven Iraqi military vehicles, taking two command jeeps intact.

In an ambush attack in Khalkan-Dukan road of the same province the Peshmergas killed crew members of three Iraqi military vehicles including commander of the group, said the headquarters.

Communique No 2,894

LD111635 Tehran IRNA in English 1617 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 11, IRNA — At least 25 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy vehicles destroyed in the southern fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants Friday, said a military communique here Saturday.

The 2894th communique released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that three light and heavy Iraqi vehicles were destroyed by Iranian artillery fire in the northwestern fronts yesterday.

In the western fronts Friday, Iranian Muslim combatants reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions, destroying 10 enemy gun emplacements and observation posts.

Ten enemy gun emplacements were destroyed and their crew members killed in parts of the fronts yesterday when shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces who also disrupted enemy engineering operations.

Iranian patrol convoys successfully carried out intelligence-gathering missions throughout the fronts and returned safely to bases.

The artillery fire of Iranian forces also set afire a number of Iraqi mortar emplacements throughout the fronts yesterday, killing their crew members.

Iranian gunboats intercepted and searched three ships in the Strait of Hormuz Friday but found no Iraqi-bound cargo aboard them. They also checked movements of enemy vessels around Al-'Amaya and Al-Bakr oil platforms in the northern tip of the Persian Gulf, the communique concluded.

Iraqi Attack 'Neutralized'

LD111653 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] A desperate enemy attempt to infiltrate the positions of the forces of Islam in the southern part of the Majnun Islands was neutralized early today by the bravery of the forces of Islam. The Saddamist forces, having suffered another defeat, were forced to retreat.

According to an IRNA report, the Ba'thist Iraqi regime, in retaliation for its repeated defeats in a series of operations in the northwest and in order to boost the morale of its forces, attempted to attack an area in the southern part of the Majnun Islands using the 3d Commando Brigade of the Iraqi VI Army Corps. The attack was neutralized by the timely response of the forces of Islam. The Saddamist forces were pinned down in their positions after having lost hundreds of personnel who were killed or wounded.

Iraqi Bombing Kills Civilians

LD111719 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., July 11, IRNA — Some Iranian civilians were killed and wounded when Iraqi war planes bombed the township of Mirabad as well as some points in the outskirts of the border town of Sardasht, West Azarbayjan Province, at 09:15 hours local time (05:45 GMT) Saturday. Initial reports reaching here from Sardasht also added that some houses, farms and pastures were also damaged in the savage bombing.

Four densely populated residential areas in Sardasht were subjected to chemical bombardments by Iraqi warplanes two times on June 28, causing the martyrdom of 60 civilians and the

wounding of more than 2,000 others. The victims of these attacks were mainly children, women and old people.

More Gulf Defenders Depart

LD111954 Tehran IRNA in English 1801 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormuzgan Prov., July 11 IRNA — The first caravan of "The Persian Gulf Defenders" from Hormuzgan Province, comprising three battalions left here for strategic islands of the Persian Gulf after a splendid march in this port city Saturday.

Local people and the marchers announced their readiness to directly counter aggressors in the Persian Gulf in a resolution read at the end of the march. The resolution also condemned Kuwait's reactionary rulers' measures and backed defense plans of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region.

Communique No 2,895

LD121614 Tehran IRNA in English 1553 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA — Some civilians were martyred and wounded when Iraqi warplanes bombed two villages around Sardasht at 05:40 and 05:55 GMT Sunday, said a military communique released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces here today.

The 2895th Joint Staff communique said that an oil tanker, suspected of carrying cargo for Iraq, was intercepted in the Strait of Hormuz and later escorted to a southern Iranian port for thorough inspection by Iranian Navy gunboats Saturday. Iranian gunboats also intercepted and searched another oil tanker and two cargo ships in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday but found no Iraq-destined goods aboard them.

The Navy coastal artillery fire damaged an Iraqi vessel in the Khawr 'Abdallah waterway yesterday, forcing it to return to its hideout around Umm Qasr port.

Two Iraqi soldiers surrendered to Iranian Muslim combatants in a war theater yesterday morning, and requested political asylum.

Ten Iraqi soldiers were killed and several enemy gun emplacements and observation posts together with one vehicle destroyed in the southern and northwestern fronts Saturday when shelled by Iranian forces.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces continued their artillery duels with Iraqi troops in parts of the warfronts yesterday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and setting afire 10 gun emplacements and observation posts of theirs.

Exchange of artillery fire continued throughout the fronts Saturday, raging somewhat more heavily in Hajj 'Umran, Kushk and the Majnun Islands.

Iraqi engineering operations were checked in Nahr 'Anbar, southern fronts, yesterday, the communique concluded.

IRGC Repels Iraqi Gunboat Attack

LD121704 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Tehran, July 12, IRNA — Naval craft of the third zone of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) attacked two Iraqi gunboats in Khawr 'Abdallah waterway when they attempted to approach Iranian positions today. According to 'Nouh' Naval headquarters one of the Iraqi vessels was damaged and the other fled the area as a result of the attack.

Monafeqin-e Khalq Bases in Pakistan Destroyed

LD101635 Tehran IRNA in English 1509 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] Islamabad July 10 IRNA — All bases of the outlawed Iranian counterrevolutionary grouplet, Monafeqin-e Khalq [Organization] Iran (MKO), in the Pakistani cities of Karachi and Quetta were destroyed Wednesday when atacked by an unidentified group.

According to reports published in local dailies and foreign news agencies and the implicit confession of MKO members, the casualties and losses inflicted on MKO members during the attacks were so heavy that all MKO bases were destroyed and the MKO casualty toll amounted to 100.

The terrorist MKO grouplet used its bases in Karachi and Quetta to perpetrate acts of terrorism against the Islamic Republic, including the despatch of terrorist teams to Iran via the eastern Pakistani border, since a long time ago.

Afghan Rebel Leader Escapes Bomb Attack

BK111655 Hong Kong AFP in English
1648 GMT 11 Jul 87

[Text] Islamabad, July 11 (AFP)— Afghan rebel leader Muhammad Yunis Khalis narrowly escaped a bomb attack Saturday on his office in Pakistan border city of Peshawar, which injurd two people, the pro-resistance *Afghan Islamic Press* (AIP) news agency reported.

The 68-year-old head of the Hezb-e Eslami rebel group was in his office when the bomb went off Saturday morning, AIP said, adding that it thought the Afghan secret service, the KHAD, was responsible.

It said the bomb was planted near a pillar supporting the main building and that the attackers apparently hoped the whole structure would cave in. But the half kilo (1.1 LB) bomb failed to cause the expected havoc. Two party workers were injured by glass splinters and some parked cars were damaged, it added.

Mr. Khalis is known for leading guerrilla operations himself and Afghan agents in the past been blamed for attacks on the offices of other groups opposed to the Soviet-backed Afghan Government.

Prime Minister Junejo Leaves for Visit to Japan

BK120954 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 12 Jul 87

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo left Islamabad last night for Tokyo on a 5-day visit to Japan at the invitation of Prime Minister Nakasone. Talking to newsmen at the airport prior to his departure, the prime minister said that Pakistan-Japan relations are very good and that his current visit will further strengthen and consolidate them. He recalled that he was invited by (?Nakasone) to visit Japan soon after he became Pakistan's prime minister, but that he could not visit earlier due to engagements. He said that he is now going to Japan, a country with which Pakistan has deep relations.

The prime minister noted that he will have in-depth discussions with his Japanese counterpart on a number of issues, including bilateral matters, economic relations, and regional and international topics. He said that Japan is a country with which Pakistan has extensive trade relations. Japan ranks second among all countries that have trade relations with and provide assistance to Pakistan. Irrespective of the trade imbalance with Japan, the annual trade turnover between the two countries exceeds $1 billion. He said that he will discuss the issue of the existing trade imbalance during this visit and will review methods to close the gap.

Mohammad Khan Junejo said Japan has always supported Pakistan on all issues and has identical views on various international matters. Japan has also supported Pakistan on the Afghanistan issue and has provided generous aid for Afghan refugees.

Answering a question about Pakistan's new trade policy, the prime minister said that this should have been adopted much earlier as a balance between imports and exports is in the interest of the nation. On the transfer of technology, Mohammad Khan Junejo affirmed that Japan has supported Pakistan. Pakistan's policy is to acquire technology for projects that have been established to make the country self-reliant. If a country sets up an industry in Pakistan, it must also transfer the technology, he observed.

The prime minister's entourage includes Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan; Minister of State for Production Major General Mohammad Bashir Khan, retired; the chief ministers of Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, and Baluchistan; parliament members; and a team of media representatives. The prime minister was seen off at the airport by Senate Chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Punjab Governor Makhdoom Mohammad Sajjad Hussain Qureshi, federal ministers, ministers of state, elected representatives, diplomats, and senior officials.

Limit Placed on Number of Indian Relief Ships

BK101139 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] The government yesterday decided to stand by the agreement reached with India in allowing four more Indian relief ships to unload food supplies to the Jaffna Peninsula at Kankesanthurai [KKS]. At a meeting of government ministers yesterday, it was also decided that no more food ships from India sent as humanitarian relief will be accepted. India's high commissioner in Colombo, Mr J.N. Dixit, said on Wednesday four more relief ships will come to KKS. The prime minister said if India was keen on sending more food as humanitarian assistance, they should unload the food in Colombo.

President Rejects Call for UN-Supervised Vote

BK110417 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0407 GMT 11 Jul 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Excerpts] Colombo, July 10 [date as received] (*Lanka Puwath*) — The call for internationally supervised elections in Sri Lanka is a grave insult to our voters and according to Sri Lankan President J R Jayewardene it bordered on the mentally unbalanced, the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) announced in its news bulletin tonight.

Our people have wide experience in the use of the popular vote and there is no need for foreign supervision of the way they cast their vote.

President Jayewardene said that any such observers coming into the country would be turned back. He pointed out that mischievous proposals of this nature are being made today by the same people who openly flouted election regulations during their time. [passage omitted]

The president pledged general elections in due time.

Speaking further, Mr Jayewardene noted that the country is administered by a government headed by an executive president elected by the people. This process secured the voting rights of the people for all time.

Premadasa Travels to UK, Japan for Conferences

BK101202 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 Jul 87

[Text] The prime minister, R. Premadasa, left for Britain yesterday. He has been invited to inaugurate the 15th congress of the International Union of Architects to be held in Brighton. He will deliver the keynote address on the theme: Shelter and Cities — Building Tomorrow's World. Around 5,000 delegates are due to participate.

Mr Premadasa has also been invited to Japan to inaugurate the 2d regional congress of local authorities for development of human settlements in Asia and the Pacific on the 21st of this month. The prime minister will deliver the inaugural address to a large and distinguished gathering of heads of municipal councils and other local authorities from Asia and the Pacific. During his visit to these two countries, Mr Premadasa will meet British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone. He is expected to discuss matters of mutual concern with them. The prime minister was accompanied by Mrs Hema Premadasa and his secretary, K.H.J. Vijayadasa.

20 'Terrorists,' 7 Soldiers Killed in Fighting

BK130927 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0907 GMT 13 Jul 87

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 13 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Seven soldiers and 20 separatist terrorists were killed in security forces operations in northern and eastern Sri Lanka during the last 24 hours.

The Media Centre in Colombo told *Lanka Puwath* that police commandos from the Special Task Force (STF) killed two terrorists belonging to the Tamil Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) at Otuvil in the Akkaraipattu area of eastern Sri Lanka today. The two terrorists, identified as Chitravel and Nagulan, were area leaders. Chitravel was an area leader of Jaffna and Nagulan was the second in command of the LTTE in the Batticaloa south area.

The commandos captured a Browning pistol with ammunition and an [word indistinct] communication set.

At Idaikadu-Tampalai area in the Jaffna District yesterday four soldiers were killed and four other soldiers wounded when a security force patrol was caught up in a land mine explosion.

Government troops killed 15 infiltrating separatist terrorists at Vadamarachchi, northern Sri Lanka yesterday and captured AK-47 rifles, grenades with LTTE markings, explosives, mortars and mortar bombs, mines, and other devices.

Three soldiers were killed in this operation.

At Mavadippuram in the Keerimalai area, Jaffna District, a security force patrol killed a terrorist who attempted to infiltrate into the area and his weapons captured last Saturday, the Media Centre said.

Separatist terrorists fired mortars at the Tolagatty Army camp in Jaffna yesterday. Troops returned fire effectively.

At Sagama in the Batticaloa District police commandos killed two terrorists and captured their weapons today.

They were identified as Nathan and Sivan belonging to the LTTE.